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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH

1919-1923.

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SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

REPORT, 1919.

THE Committee regret the loss of two original members, Prebendary Bothamley, Vice-President for some seven years, and Colonel Blathwayt, who served on the Committee for about the same period, both resigned office owing to ill-health but continued to be members until their death. Commencing the year with the full complement of members, 170, early in the season there were 6 resignations and 1 death; later on there were 4 further deaths, one of these occurring late in the season the vacancy was not filled; 10 have been elected, leaving the roll at the end of the year, 169. Colonel Cox, who was on the star list and so not included in the above, passed away *en route* home from India. There are 14 candidates waiting admission. The Committee have decided to withdraw the limit as to the number of members.

The account of the Annual Meeting, Earl Waldegrave in the Chair, follows this Report.

Char-a-bancs being again available excursions were reverted to after two years of local rambles. Mr. Gerald Grey took up the work of arranging the excursions with his usual energy, the four carried out proved most successful, being well attended and evidently much appreciated. They are fully reported in these Proceedings, with several illustrations, one from a block kindly lent by Mr. Kemyes-Tynte, showing Regilbury House in 1700, and others from photographs taken by Mr. Gerald Grey.

The Committee are indebted for lectures to Mr. George Norman, on "Celtic Crosses," to Sir Isambard Owen on "Rheimes Cathedral," and to Mr. C. H. Bothamley on "Aigues Mortes." These three lectures were well illustrated by lantern slides. A brief report of them is given at the end of these Proceedings.

Thanks are due to Mr. Thos. S. Bush for carrying out the duties of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

The accounts have been kindly audited by Mr. Edward Segar.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1919.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Literary Institution on Thursday, March 13th, 1919, at 3 o'clock. Present: Earl Waldegrave (Vice-President), in the Chair, Colonel Kirkwood, Major-General Bradshaw, Colonel Clayton, Mr. Kemeys-Tynte, Mr. George Norman, Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn, Mr. M. H. Scott, Rev. C. W. Shickle, Rev. F. C. Bayliss, Colonel Arnoll Davis, Dr. Fosbery, Mrs. Begg, Mrs. W. Carr, Miss E. M. Wood, Mr. E. Cay Adams, Mr. C. R. Brendon, Mr. A. J. Taylor, Mr. H. M. Ingham, Mr. Thomas J. Holmes, Miss Knight, Miss L. M. Salmon, Miss E. E. Salmon, Miss Rodman, Mrs. Layton, Mrs. Thos. S. Bush, Miss Wood, Mr. Thos. S. Bush, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and Mr. Gerald Grey, Hon. Excursion Secretary.

The following notified they were unable to attend: Captain C. T. Foxcroft, M.P., Prebendary Boyd, Colonel Leigh, Rev. F. A. Bromley, Mr. R. C. Bush, and Rev. Ethelbert Horne.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary read a letter he had received from Lord Hylton, resigning the office of President for private reasons, and wishing the Branch every prosperity.

Earl Waldegrave moved that the Hon. Secretary write to Lord Hylton expressing regret at his resignation and appreciation of his services. This was seconded by Colonel Clayton and carried unanimously.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts (taken as read), said the Branch was in a satisfactory condition; the membership kept up notwithstanding the abnormal times we had been passing through, and a further investment had been made in War Funds. He hoped Mr. Bush would be able to arrange further excavations, but he was afraid there would be labour difficulties. During the last two years there had been local rambles instead of excursions, which appear to have been much appreciated.

Colonel Kirkwood, in seconding, said he was glad the number of members had kept up and now that they would be able to get about again in excursions the interest should increase. They were indebted to Mr. Bush for the manner in which the Proceedings were produced. Having alluded to the sudden death of Mr. James Anderson, who had audited the accounts, he suggested that a letter of sympathy be sent to the family. This was agreed to and the adoption of the Report and Accounts carried.

Colonel Kirkwood then moved that Earl Waldegrave be President, saying that he had been Vice-President since the Branch was formed and had always taken keen interest in its work.

This was seconded by Mr. George Norman and carried unanimously.

Earl Waldegrave said he should be very pleased to accept office, and thanked the members for electing him.

The following resolutions were adopted :—

Major-General Bradshaw proposed and Mr. M. H. Scott seconded that Lord Strachie and Captain C. T. Foxcroft, M.P., be Vice-Presidents.

Rev. C. W. Shickle proposed and Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn seconded that the following form the Committee :—Colonel Kirkwood, Major-General Bradshaw, Colonel Clayton, Mr. St. David Kemyes-Tynte, Colonel Leigh, Mr. Norman, Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn and Mr. M. H. Scott.

Rev. F. C. Bayliss proposed and Mr. E. Cay Adams seconded, the re-election of Mr. Thos. S. Bush as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. Bush having returned thanks for re-election, read a letter he had received from Mr. C. Tite, one of the hon. secretaries of the Parent Society, congratulating the branch on the excellent Proceedings just issued.

Mr. Kemeys-Tynte proposed and Mr. Holmes seconded the re-election of Mr. Gerald Grey as Hon. Excursion Secretary.

Mr. Grey having thanked the members for again electing him, mentioned that it was proposed to carry out four excursions this season.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Earl Waldegrave for presiding, proposed by Colonel Clayton, seconded by Mr. H. M. Ingham.

EXCURSIONS.

SYSTON AND PUCKLECHURCH.

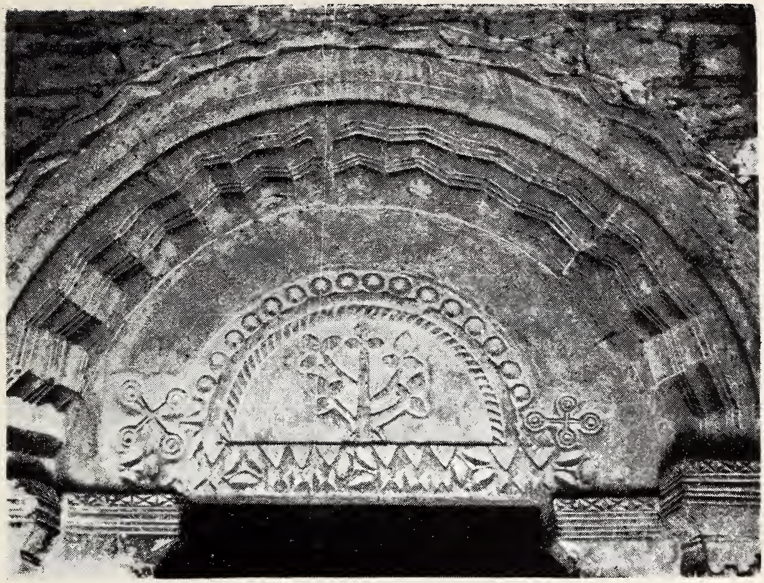
MONDAY, APRIL 28TH, 1919.

The first excursion of the season, after an enforced suspension of the last two years, was attended by fifty members. The prospect in the early morning, with snow on the ground, was not promising, but it proved a delightful afternoon, being quite warm in the sun. Leaving Queen Square at 1.30 p.m. by motor char-a-bancs, Syston was reached via Kelston and Bitton, at 2.15.

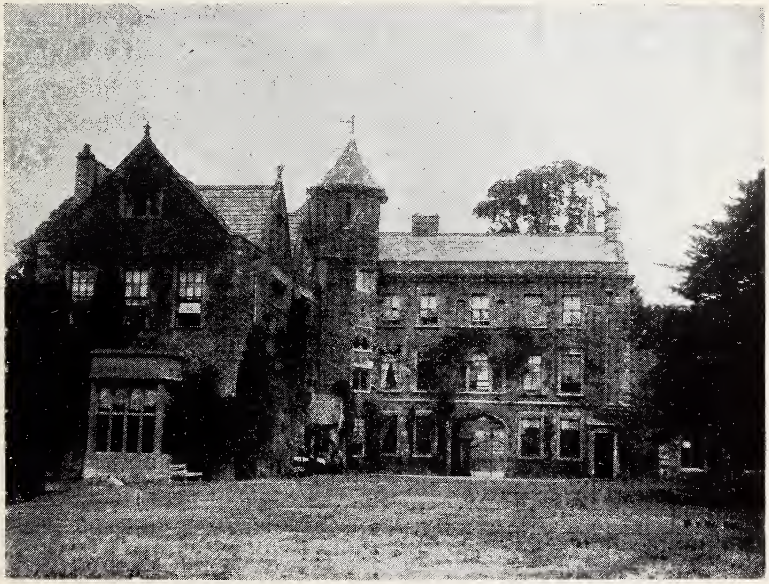
Syston is a pleasant village a short distance from the Mangotsfield-Pucklechurch road, little known to the ordinary individual. The Manor, in the Hundred of Pucklechurch, formed part of the forest of Kingswood, and the earliest mention of it, in the Domesday Book, records that "Ann held Sistone, in Pulcrecerce Hundred, in the reign of King Edward the Confessor." The parish appears to have been of considerable importance ecclesiastically in early days, for it is reported that at one time there were three churches, St. Ann (still standing), St. Bartholomew, and St. Cuthbert. The pretty little parish church, which was said to be falling into decay, was restored nearly 40 years ago, and the Society, visiting it under the guidance of the Rector (the Rev. J. H. Robertson), found it to be a well-kept church with much of interest to see. It is of 11th Century date and is built chiefly in the Early English style, but portions of an earlier Norman structure still remain.

The most interesting feature of the church is a leaden font *(see illustration).* It appears to be of late Norman design and has figures and scroll work alternately under round-headed arches, one holds a book on both knees and is thought to represent Our Lord seated in Glory; the other holds a book resting on his left knee. These figures are repeated. Of the eight Gloucestershire leaden fonts six are from the same mould. The method employed in making these fonts was probably to cast them flat, afterwards bend them into the required circular form and then solder them up. The figures and adornments are often facsimiles. In these cases it is likely that a single pattern was first carved in wood, and then impressed on the sand mould as often as required. The beautiful south doorway is a fine example of Norman work. The tympanum (*see illustration*) has in the centre a conventional tree, no doubt the Tree of Spiritual Life and Knowledge. Round the semi-circular portion a cable band, and above a series of hollow roundels. On either side a cross with circular terminations to the limbs. On the lintel are some dentils, lozenges, leaves, etc. The tympanum is probably earlier than the arch. The pulpit, of oak, is plain in design, but neatly carved, a splendid specimen of Jacobean work, and the old books attached to what are considered the original chains. Interest was aroused by the remarkably fine embellishment of the Church by frescoes beautifully painted by Mrs. Rawlins, of Syston Court.

From the churchyard the members were conducted through the private grounds to the Court. Here they were received by Mr. and Mrs. Rawlins and Miss Rawlins. Mr. Rawlins obtained the Manor of Syston in 1903 by purchase from Major Fiennes Dickenson (eldest son of Frederick Boughton Newton Dickenson), and he has taken a great pride in preserving its many beauties and treasures. It is one of the few mansions which still retain their primitive character. Its appearance built round three sides of a grassy court, with its mediæval towers, is very striking, and it was interesting to find from an old painting in one of the corridors, undated and very much out of perspective, that the fourth side was at one time enclosed by a wall, the signs of which are still to be detected on the existing building. The beautiful old house (*see illustration*) is said to have been built by one of the Denys family in the 15th Century, and the present owner, with his artistic care of the old features and tasteful additions of the true art-collector, has made the rooms of exceptional interest. In the hall, which opens upon the court, is a very fine mantelpiece with the Poyntz crest carved on it, built by Maurice Denys, who married in 1456 Alice, daughter of Nicholas Poyntz, of Iron Acton, and inherited the Syston property about 1840, when he probably commenced the building of the present house. In the dining-room is a lovely old oak mantelpiece, Mr. Rawlins having removed to the corridor the interesting carved bedhead, which being in a soft wood, probably pearwood, was out of keeping but looks well in its new place. A magnificent old carved oak sideboard attracts attention; it was obtained at the sale of the furniture of an Italian noble and brought over. On the walls are portraits of Oliver Cromwell, who is said to have visited there in 1642 and left a pair of boots



NORMAN TYMPANUM, SOUTH DOOR, SYSTON.



HANHAM COURT.

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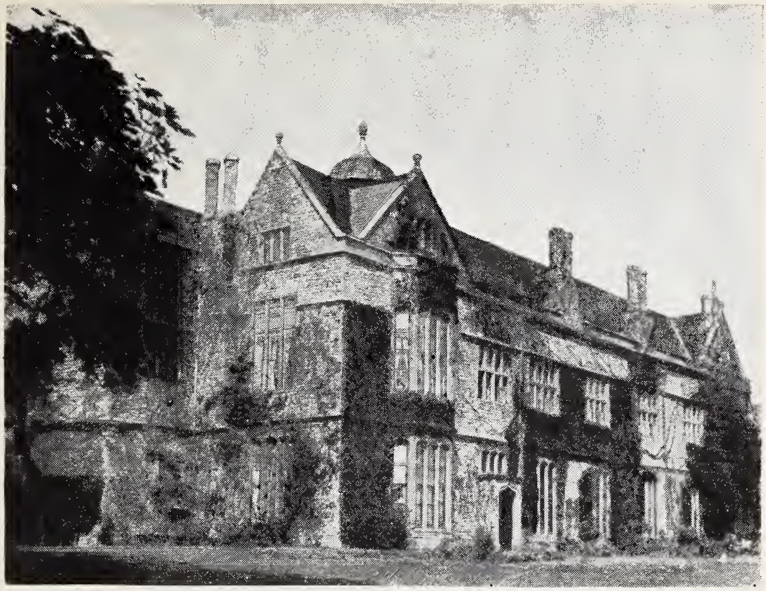
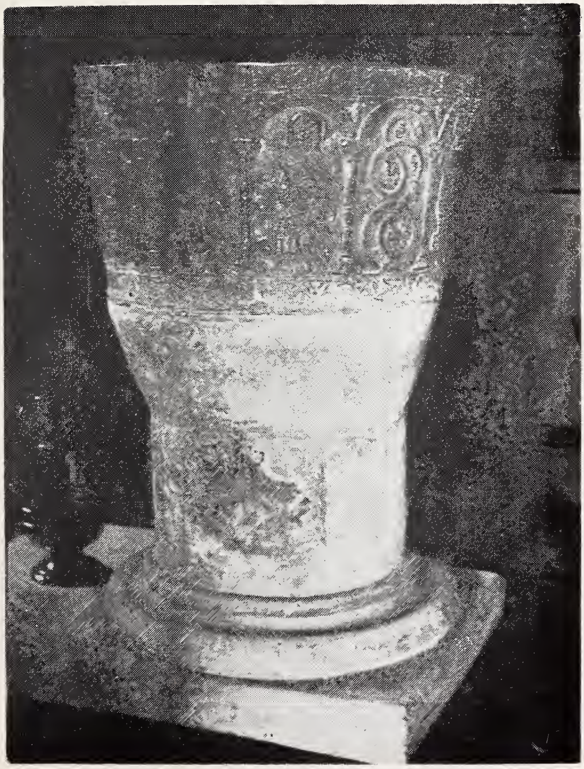


SYSTON COURT—SOUTH WEST END.



LATE NORMAN LEADEN FONT, SYSTON.

behind, and "Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I., who was at Syston in 1617," say the words painted on it. According to the detailed notes upon the owners of the property Mr. Rawlins had, Queen Anne of Denmark was entertained at Syston on the occasion of her visit to Bristol in 1614 by Henry Billingsley, who had purchased the Manor from the Denys family in 1605 (not many years before Sir Richard Denys had sold Dyrham to George Wynter; his brother Walter died 1577, was rector of Dyrham). Mr. Rawlins showed the visitors a particularly interesting picture in one of the drawing-rooms, an original Van Dyck, signed. It was at one time thought to be a copy of "The Lady Digby" in Windsor Castle, but it is now clear that it was probably the original sketch for that big picture, and it was interesting to note, comparing it with a reproduction of the Windsor picture that the man is in a different posture and the number of child figures is different. Upstairs in what is now an imposing landing where there was formerly a room, Mr. Rawlins having removed a main wall of the house to open it out, there is a fine old ceiling, which is original, and a chained Bible. The house was full of interesting objects, not the least being trophies of the present war, sent home by Mr. Rawlins' son, including a German and an English shell, which met in the air and were indissolubly joined by the force of the impact. There are in Syston Court bedrooms reputed to be haunted.

Before leaving, Mr. St. David Kemeys-Tynte voiced the thanks of the Society to Mr. and Mrs. Rawlins for their kindness in showing them the treasures of Syston Court. He hoped they would be spared many years to enjoy such a beautiful home.

Finally, Pucklechurch was visited, and the church of St. Thomas of Canterbury inspected by permission of the Vicar (the Rev. F. W. Young). In the Vicar's unavoidable absence, the Rev. C. W. Shickle read some particulars. It had been stated that the name may possibly be derived from the Latin "pulcher" (beautiful), though it was hardly probable, a more poetical, but possibly purely imaginative, suggestion was Puck-fairy, lea-meadow—the church in the fairy meadow. The village in Saxon times appears to have been included in the King's Wood, and at one time had a Royal Palace for the Saxon kings. It was at Pucklechurch that, in 946, King Edmund, grandson of Alfred the Great, while feasting with his Thanes, was killed by an escaped outlaw. The church is built in the Early English and Decorated style, with some later additions in the Perpendicular. An interesting feature is the original deeply splayed Early English single lancet windows in the north and south walls. The church underwent a complete restoration in 1887 at a cost of £1,246, and the tower was restored in 1895. The Vicarage is in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Wells, and explaining how this came about, Mr. Shickle said King Edward from Pucklechurch, was hunting the red deer and nearly fell over Cheddar cliffs. In gratitude for his escape he recalled the Abbot of Glastonbury—Dunstan. Pucklechurch thus came to belong to Glastonbury, and was taken in exchange by the Bishop of Bath and Wells for the right to elect their own Abbot.

After tea at the Fleur de Lys, a pleasant run in the grey torpedo cars brought the members back to Queen Square at 6 o'clock.

KELSTON, BITTON AND HANHAM COURT.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21ST, 1919.

The second excursion took place in delightful weather, and 52 members started from Queen Square by motor char-a-banc.

At Kelston they were received by the Rector (the Rev. E. W. Poynton), who told them that the church was quite modern with the exception of the tower. It was supposed to stand upon the site of an old Saxon church, and built into the chancel wall was a piece of Saxon work, part, apparently, of a cross.

This beautiful fragment of a Saxon cross *(see illustration)* was found by the late Rector, the Rev. F. J. Poynton, thrown aside amongst the rubbish of the old church at the time of its restoration in 1860. The stone is an oblong square, and appears to have been in use at some former time as a door-jamb. It measures 2ft. 9in. in length, by 1ft. 3in. in width. When discovered, two of its sides were entirely defaced, and a third so injured that only faint traces of carving were visible at the top. The fourth side was smoothed to a surface with mortar, and had then received several coats of whitewash. It was in this state when Mr. Poynton undertook the removal of this facing, an operation in which he entirely succeeded and thus exposed the original carving to view. The sculpture is divided by a cable-roll into two parts, and a roll of the same pattern borders it, as in the cross at Bedale, in Yorkshire. In the upper division, which is the larger, is represented two central steps supporting a square, from which spring two stems. These stems are sub-divided, and artistically formed into turning convolutions, each terminal ending in a cordate leaf. Here and there small ovate bodies are introduced in the axils of the branches, which may be taken to mean either buds, or fruit, probably the latter. At no single point do the branches from the two stems unite. From the resemblance of the design to the figure of a tree, it has been conjectured that it illustrates a rude attempt to pourtray the Tree of Life, but the presence of the fruit points rather to the other tree in the Garden, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, since the " Tree of the Fall " is not infrequently met with in early religious art, and is sometimes seen displayed in mystic and typical connection with the Cross. Although, in this instance, the rigid form of the Christian symbol is not apparent, yet the accessories of the steps forming a Calvary, and a block for the socket, together with the flexible tracery of the branches are not a little suggestive of the union of the Cross with the Tree, particularly as we find in some early examples—as that on a slab at Bakewell, Derbyshire—that the distinctive character of the Cross is preserved in the Calvary and stem, while it is lost in the interleaving knotwork that forms the head. The introduction of transitional foliage into the curved lines of the coil renders this unique fragment one of high interest. The lower division is filled in with the usual form of the endless interlacing knot.

In order to preserve it from injury, Mr. Poynton has had this valuable relic placed inside the Church, fixed in the wall of the chancel on the north side, just exposing the sculptured face in projection. Late 11th Century.

Mr. Poynton drew attention to some very interesting possessions, an Elizabethan chalice, still used, the old parish register, dating back to 1538—there was a custom in the parish since the Restoration of each rector recording the name of his predecessor—a 200 year's old Communion cloth, some Cavalier stools at the chancel steps, and the old colours of the Scots Guards, the property of the late Major-General Inigo Jones, which on the death of his heir, early in the war, were given to Kelston church by Mrs. Inigo Jones—a rare instance of famous colours being presented to a little church. He had in the Rectory the Elizabethan Communion table. The old east window had crumbled away, and had to be rebuilt, but not before they secured the picture, which was preserved in his father's book.

The members afterwards went out to see the site of the old mansion of the first Harrington, of which not a trace remains, although the premises opposite the rectory were its stables, and the terrace is still discernible. The visitors were shown its orchard, and admired the masonry of the orchard wall, built by the Italian masons (who built the mansion), in the way that those with experience of modern walls envied. It is still in perfect condition. There was no print or picture of the fine old house, and there was no indication of it upon any plan until just recently, in the late General Hawkins's papers it was found marked on an old plan of his, which the squire (the Rev. Ralph Inigo Jones), now had. An interesting 15th Century columbarium *(see illustration)* and the tithe barn were also visited.

Bitton was next visited. The Vicar (the Rev. F. H. W. Taylor) was unable to receive the party at the church of St. Mary the Virgin owing to an engagement in London, but Miss Matthie kindly acted as a most efficient guide, and the Rev. C. W. Shickle gave some interesting details. He observed that they had entered the parish at Swinford. The origin of the name he did not know—it might have been the place where Bladud drove his pigs across the river with well-known results—but the little stream which marked the boundary of the parish deserved attention. It was the Boyd, and the village upon it was Boynton, Bitton, but more than this its praises had been sung by a poet, now forgotten, though praised by Sir John Harington for his English when Shakespeare's plays were novelties, Daniel, the Somerset poet, the friend of Edmund Spenser.

Bitton, in Domesday Book Bethune, and later Button was frequently visited by, or a settlement of, the Romans. Roman remains were found, and the Via Julia ran through the parish. The earliest church may date back to Saxon, and the late Canon Ellacombe suggested that the first Christian Church may have been erected on the site of a Roman pagan temple. The original abacusses of the semi-circular arch are to be found in the Norman chancel arch, and remains of Roman bricks were discovered in the Norman masonry of the west wall when making the present entrance to the tower. Massive blocks of Norman ashlar masonry still exist in the porch and south walls. Ten feet from the west of the chancel arch was the west end of the old church, which was discovered by taking up the pavement of the present tower and coming upon the entrance step six inches below. On the south and north apparently were transepts. On the south side was a mortuary chapel for the tombs of the Button family. On the south side of the chancel arch was a squint, or hagioscope, and among the fillings up were found a fragment of a bishop's effigy, and the colossal head and arm of the rood (the staircase to the rood-loft was discovered in the north wall in 1823). These remains are now in the chantry of St. Catherine, on the north side, founded by Thomas de Dutton, Bishop of Exeter, in memory of his parents, who lie buried there. The ordinance of this chantry is dated 1299. The entrance, the side windows, the handsome sedila, with piscina beneath four canopies are specially worthy of notice. The chantry was renovated last December, and it is hoped thoroughly to restore it and clear it by the removal of the organ, in memory of the men who have fallen in the war. The elegant tower, considered a masterpiece of masonry, was commenced in 1371. The present chancel was considered by Canon Ellacombe unique, because of the principles of lateral groining being produced on a flat surface, and there are some curious bosses. Canon Ellacombe had the groining and bosses covered with gold leaf because of their unique character.

A visit was also paid to the wonderful garden of the late Canon Ellacombe, the most famous vicarage garden in England, where plants grew that would not grow at Kew, Mrs. Taylor acting as guide.

The last place visited was Hanham Court and the little church of St. George, both joined in a curious and picturesque way. Mr. P. J. de Carteret, who now lives at the Court, one of the de Carterets of Jersey, made the party very welcome and told them the history of the manor, the beginning of which was only vaguely known. Ernulf de Hesding held it in Domesday Book, and it was then held by a family which took the name of Hanham. It passed in 1272 to Sabro Marisco, who sold it in 1329 to William de la frene and John Boyworth, who in 1330 gave it to the Abbot of Keynsham. This Abbot built the church in 1450, which might have been on the site of the old manorial chapel. It was never a monastery but simply the summer residence of the Abbot, having always been a small house. After the Reformation the monks were said to have gone up to the farm and cursed anyone who ever inhabited the manor. The property came into the hands of the King, and in a few years was sold, one of the most famous owners being John Lacey, a worthy citizen of Bristol and London, and from him it passed to Thomas Colston, a relative of the great philanthropist, Edward Colston. It was sold in 1638 to Francis and Henry Creswick, who had a fine house in St. Stephen's street, Bristol. Sir Henry, who lived at Hanham Court, was Mayor of Bristol in 1660 and knighted by Charles II., three years later. He was involved in a law suit with the Newton family, who had obtained the manor of de Button and were the overlords of Oldland and East and West Hanham.

Although he won, this caused a feud between the families which eventually ended in the ruin of the Creswicks. Sir Francis, who succeeded, was there when Monmouth's army came on the other side of the river, where his cattle were. He was not a traitor, but he was seen talking to one of Monmouth's officers by Sir John Newton's bailiff, who denounced him, and after the defeat of Monmouth he was imprisoned at Gloucester for years. However, James II. visited Hanham Court in 1687, and was said to have dined under the oak. It was a decadent family, and the last was a man of licentious habits who was generally in hiding from bailiffs in a cottage in the wood. He would have been able to retrieve the family fortunes but for his habits, as his uncle at Queen Charlton would have made him his heir. It was desired to put on his tomb, "Deprived of his lawful inheritance by rascally lawyers," but Mr. Ellacombe refused to allow him to be buried in the churchyard. Another branch of the family having gone abroad, had prospered, and a lady from Hanham met the daughters in Canada, and found their father was one of the leading barristers in Canada.

The church dates from the 15th Century, and so must have been built by the monks, but it stands on the site of a much older building. Very probably a church was erected in the Norman period for the accommodation of the ancient lords and their families, and for those employed on their estates. The church is dedicated to St. George, and is a neat and comfortable little edifice, consisting of nave, south aisle, and chancel? Over the south aisle may still be seen the old Norman oak roof, which was covered up for centuries until about sixty years ago, when the church was restored. The font, also Norman, is square in shape and well preserved. On the south side of the chancel may be seen a rare example of a Norman piscina *(see illustration)*, standing on a fluted pedestal of elegant design. The piscina and pedestal were discovered in a garden in the parish some years ago, but were fortunately saved from destruction. The piscina now occupies its original position. The gargoyles on the tower are particularly interesting and well preserved, one of the subjects being "A Soul entering Hell." Over the inner doorway of the fine old south porch is an empty niche, which probably at one time contained a figure. The square archway is adorned with a foliated design carried up to the niche above, and is very elegant. The outer arch of the porch has a good moulding, terminating on one side with a head, which, however, is missing from the other. Above this arch is another niche, slso empty. A good ancient oak door leads into the church, and on each side of the porch may be seen the old benching. The Court *(see illustration)* proved a charming residence in the Tudor style and stands on the site of a former house, which, like the earlier chapel, may be of Norman date. The most interesting feature is the fine oak panelled dining-hall. The old kitchens are Norman, and were still in use when Mr. de Carteret came. Close to the Court there is a very fine Norman tithe barn.

Colonel Clayton expressed the members' appreciation of the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. de Carteret.

The return was made via Keynsham, where tea was partaken of at the Lamb and Lark Hotel, Bath being reached at six o'clock.

BIDDESTONE, YATTON KEYNELL AND KINGTON ST. MICHAEL.

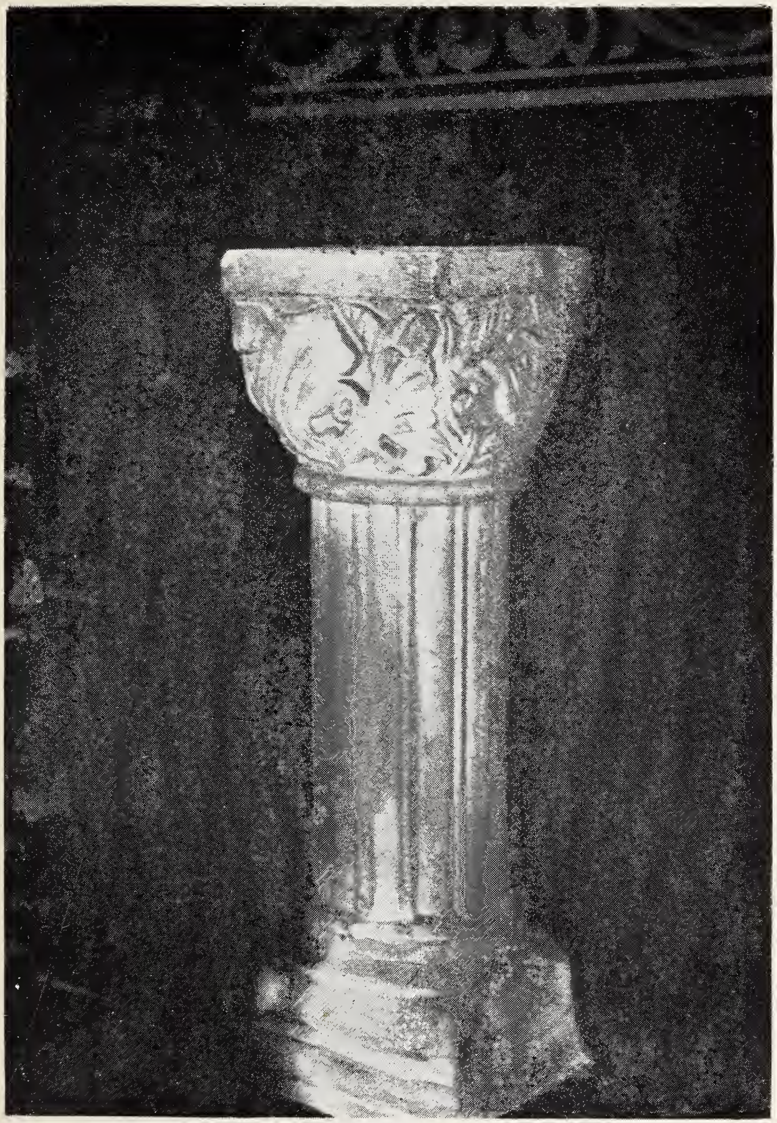
Fine weather favoured this excursion on July 15th. There was a full party, a number of applications having to be refused because the char-a-bancs were full. After a pleasant run of an hour, Biddestone was reached, via Corsham.

In the church of St. Michael the members were received by the Rector (the Rev. H. E. Ketchley). The village of Biddestone, although comprising the rectory of St. Peter with the vicarage of St. Nicholas, possesses only one church, the older foundation, that of St. Peter, having been destroyed some years since so completely that now not one stone stands upon another, and not one relic of it exists except the turret, which slightly altered, stands in the garden attached to the Manor House, Castle Combe.

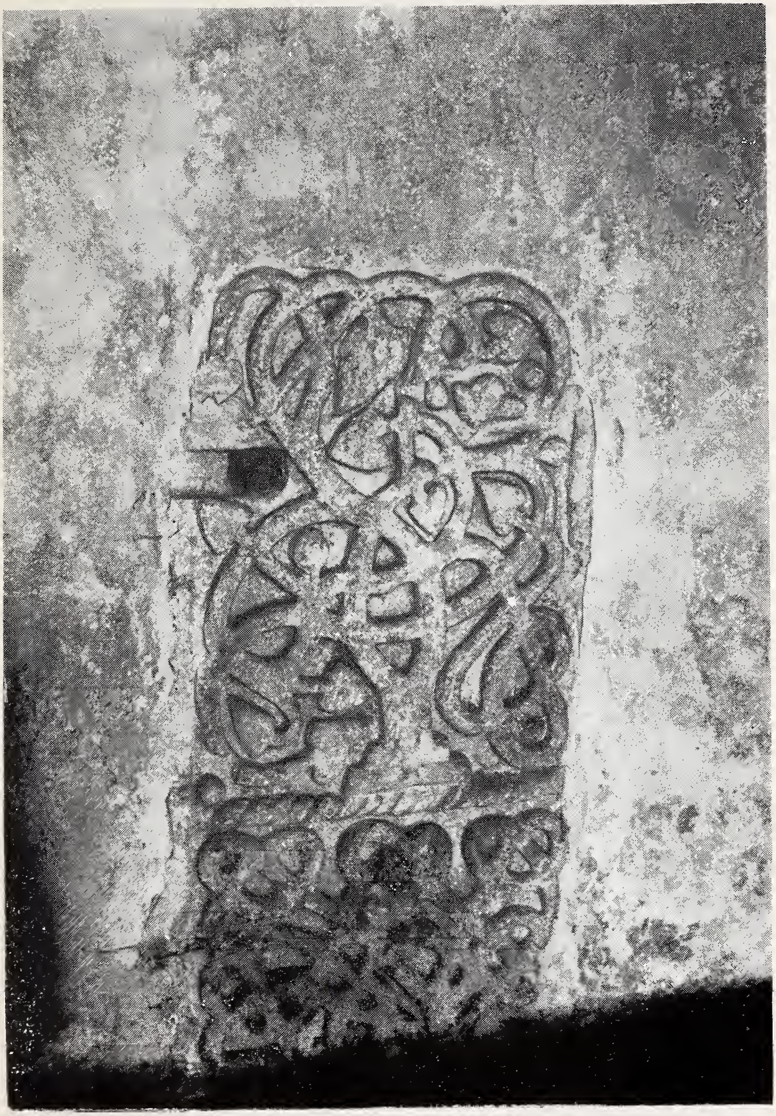
The church of St. Nicholas consists of a nave, chancel, and south porch, with a bell turret over the chancel arch. A second chancel was added some years since, which has at first sight an ancient appearance from being built of old materials. It is evident that a church was erected here in the 12th Century. All that remains of it is the inner doorway of the porch, the font, and the lower part of the bell turret. The doorway, with its simple square head and arched tympanum upon which is carved in low relief the well-known form of the Norman Cross, is unfortunately deprived of its shafts. The last example of Norman work, the font, is equally simple in its character. It is of an inverted conical form, with a single chevron surrounding the upper part. The chancel has an "Early English" lancet window north and south, a two-light "Decorated" low side window in the south-west corner, and a blocked-up lancet window of the same date in the north wall; the latter has an ogee trefoiled head, but the cups have unfortunately been cut off. The manor belonged to Humphrey de Lisle in Norman days, and there were many monuments on the walls of the Montjoys, the old family of Biddestone.

A walk through the picturesque old village, which, with Castle Combe and Lacock is considered one of the three prettiest villages in Wiltshire, gave opportunity to see some interesting old houses dating back to the occupation of the Flemings (the originators of the woollen trade), the two stones in the village pond, which are the only remains of the old ducking stool, and the house still called the Barracks, in which Cromwell is said to have stayed, although more than one place claims the honour. By kind permission of Captain Morley, the Manor House was seen, in which much that is old, noticeably some fine doorways, fireplaces, and a beautiful example of Jacobean oak-panelled room, has been carefully retained, though the Manor, which was for 50 years a farmhouse, has been converted by Captain Morley into a very attractive home with old style and commodious rooms. The Manor has a long history, going back to Saxon days. In the grounds of the Manor House, now a potato patch, is the site of the old Perpendicular church of St. Peter's, now completely gone—its parish included part of Biddestone and Hartham.

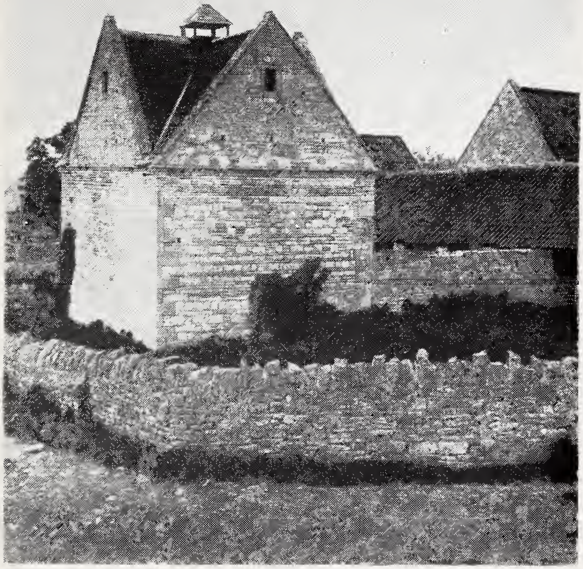
Another interesting old church was the parish church of St. Margaret, Yatton Keynell, which the Rector (the Rev. A. Bolton) said had been restored by Street. The tower arch was 13th Century, and the rest of the church was 15th Century. There was a stone screen (15th Century) which was probably removed at an unknown date to Stanley Abbey, near Chippenham, of which nothing now remained. Yatton Keynell was held in knight fee in the time of Henry VII. by Henry Decayne, probably to defend the yat, Anglo-Saxon equivalent of gate or opening, from the Welsh, who were in the habit of coming down and stealing the deer from the forest all round Chippenham. Hence the name "yat" and "tun" enclosure, the enclosure at the opening. Decayne thought himself of sufficient importance to hold the patronage of the



NORMAN PISCINA, HANHAM COURT CHURCH,

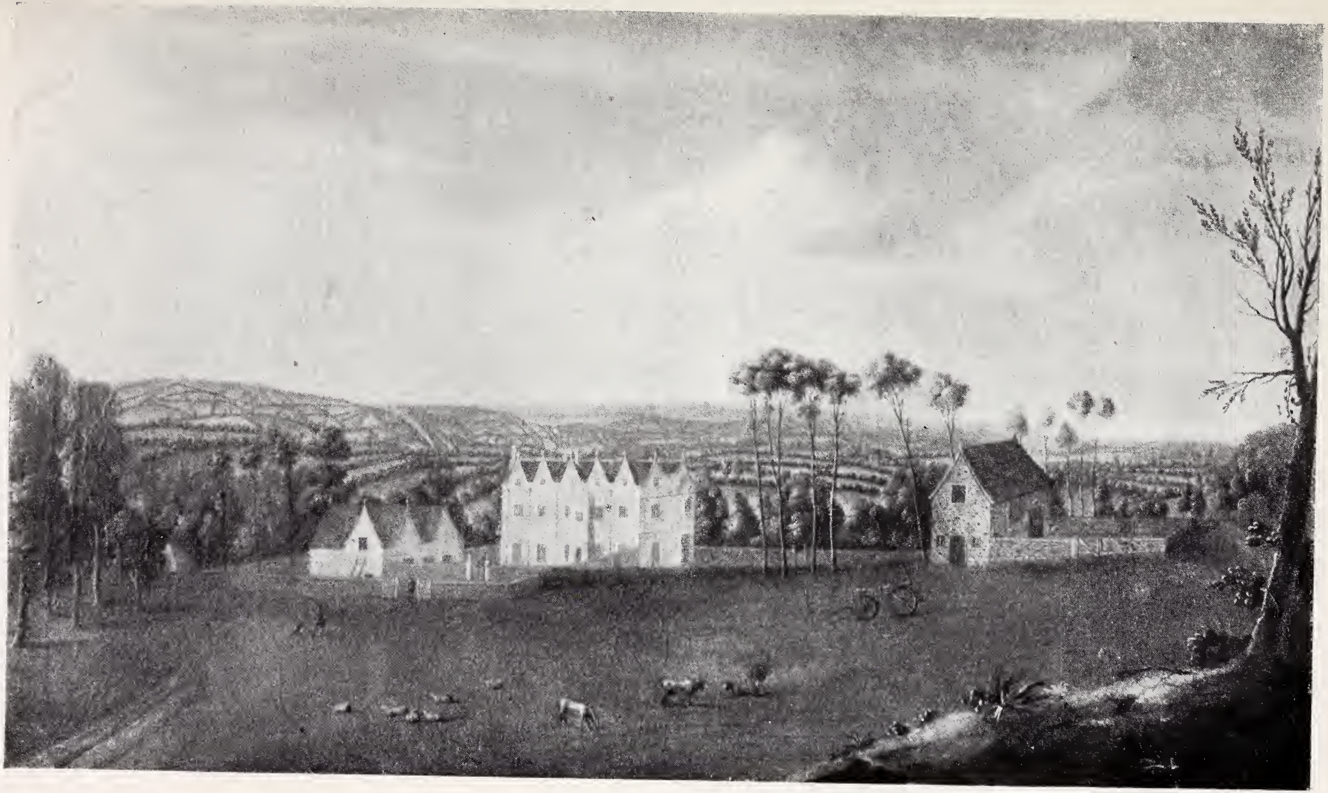


FRAGMENT OF SAXON CROSS, KELSTON CHURCH.



COLOMBARIUM, KELSTON

REGILBURY PARK (front view).



REGILBURY PARK, from an old Painting.

living, and in 1318 there were two rectors, one nominated by Decayne and the other by the Abbot of Malmesbury. There were originally two churches, the present dedicated to St. Margaret of Antioch, most likely on account of the Crusades, and the other to St. James, of which no trace was left. The chancel of the church was rebuilt in 1868 by Street, who carried out very thoroughly the original idea. There were remains of the steps to the old rood loft, and these were used afterwards by the Gospeller, who read from a kind of platform where the lectern now stood. One of the arms on the screen was damaged, having been defaced by Cromwell's soldiers, it was said, because it depicted the wounds of Christ. The tower was noteworthy because it went straight down to the ground without supports.

Leaving the church the members visited Fowlswick Farm, in which there is a very large fireplace, the chimney of which is carried up in a series of pyramids through a large upper chamber. Tea was then partaken of at the Plough Inn, Kington Langley.

There was a good deal of interest at Kington St. Michael. The Vicar (the Rev. G. H. Bode) told the visitors that the church had suffered badly from restoration. It consisted of a chancel, a nave, with aisles, south porch, and western tower. The earliest part remaining was the chancel, which formed part of a Norman church that consisted, apparently, of a chancel, nave and western tower. The chancel arch was of the same date, and of unusual width. Early in the 13th Century an aisle was added on the north side, with an arcade of three pointed arches, but was subsequently destroyed. The chancel was restored in the 17th Century and two trefoiled headed lancets, with fine rear arches, inserted in the south wall. Soon after, the south aisle was added. The fine south door has Norman jambs and hook shafts apparently removed from the destroyed south wall of the nave. The arch existed in Aubrey's time, but had been removed. The door was 15th Century, and had rough traceried panelling on the outside, and the porch was of the same date. The tower was 17th Century, replacing the Norman structure blown down in a storm, and the north aisle was added at that time. The church was originally dedicated to St. Mary, but Michael, Abbot of Glastonbury, who practically rebuilt the church, changed the name. Kington St. Michael was once a town of considerable importance, and had a market and a fair. It was of considerable interest to archæologists because the famous antiquarians, Aubrey and Britton, were both born there.

After a glance at the old almshouses the party walked to see the remains of the old Priory, by permission of the tenant of the farmhouse (Mr. C. Pike). There were formerly three monastic foundations, but there are remains only of the Priory. The nuns were famous for the confections they made, for which they used the barberries with which the hedges were crowded. The Priory was founded for 12 or 13 nuns of the Order of St. Benedict, probably by a member of the family of Wayfer, of Kington and Brynton. The buildings were arranged round a court 55ft. square. On the north was the chapel, on the east the chapterhouse and warming room, and the fireplace with a wooden lintel still remains. The south side was partly unoccupied by buildings, but at the western end was the "frater" or dining hall. The west side was a one-storied hall, which still retains its roof.

An enjoyable afternoon concluded with a drive through the beautiful village of Castle Combe and down Bannerdown hill, Bath being reached about 8 o'clock.

REGILBURY, NEMPNETT AND NORTON MALREWARD.

There was a large muster of members for the last excursion of the season and though rain threatened there was nothing but a shower.

On reaching Nempnett a visit was first paid to Regilbury Court by permission of the tenant (Mr. R. W. Harding). The Court, now a farm, so completely in the country that it is eight miles from a station and the only way to post a letter is to hand it to the postman on his delivery round in the morning, has a long history, but only fragmentary remains exist of the old house, such as a very fine chimney seat in the sitting room with a window, and a 15th Century chimney stack in the old kitchen, made of massive masonry. Traces have been found showing that the old Court was on a big scale, and of a tunnel, which tradition says led to Butcombe and Regilbury Park. King John is said to have used the Court as a hunting box when in the West.

Regilbury Park *(see illustration)*, which was next visited, was of special interest to the society, for the estate was formerly in the possession of the Tyntes, and one of the society's members (Mr. St. David M. Kemeys-Tynte) read a paper to them on its history. He pointed out that the Park was the remains of a once fine mansion known as Regilbury house, only one of the gables of which has survived. Regilbury was described as a manor by Collinson, but was not recorded in Domesday Book. It was more probably a tithing in the manor of Ridgehill (" Ragid " in Domesday) in the adjoining parish of Winford. There was no record as to when or by whom the mansion was erected, but it must have been at a comparatively early date as the Strachey MSS (Sutton Court) states that " Edward Baber, great grandson of Edward Baber, serjeant-at-law, dwelt here in great splendour, repaired, rebuilt, enlarged and beautified the old house, and dying issueless, left it to Florence, his wife, who, not long surviving, left it and her husband's estate to Sir Halswell Tynte, her husband's next kinsman." The repairing and re-edifying of the old house must have occurred about 1700, and as it was an old house at that date, it was probably erected by the serjeant-at-law in the time of Elizabeth. The late Mr. Frederick Wood in his " Collections for a Parochial History of Chew Magna," assumed that the first of the names who owned Regilbury was John Baber, youngest son of John Babyr or Baber, of Chew Stoke, grandfather of the serjeant-at-law, who was born in 1531 and died in 1878. John Baber, the father of the last Edward Baber, married Barbara, daughter of Colonel John Tynte, of Chelvey Court.

After the house had passed to the Tynte family of Halswell, it was lent by their representative to Sir William Wyndham, who belonged to a Somerset family settled at Orchard Wyndham, in the western part of the county. He became an eminent politician and statesman, a pronounced Tory and Jacobite, and the tool of Bolingbroke. In 1710 he was made Secretary of War, and in 1713 Chancellor of the Exchequer. On the accession of George I. he was dismissed from office, and when the rebellion broke out in Scotland he was sent to the Tower, but never brought to trial. On his release he sought a sanctum " far from the madding crowd," and went to Regilbury. His family, now no longer connected with Somerset, acquired its possessions of land in the county at the Dissolution of the monasteries, if they could judge from the old well-known Somerset distitch :—

> Popham, Horner, Wyndham, Thynne,
> The monks went out and they came in.

It would appear that after the tenancy of Sir William Wyndham had expired, the old house lapsed again into decay, was dismantled and partly pulled down, and what remains of it turned into a farmhouse as it remains at the present day. Lord Wharton, who is now the representative of the Tynte family, recently disposed of some of the outlying portions of his estate including the Regilbury property, which was bought by the tenant (Mr. W. H. Bathard). Mrs. Bathard courteously showed the party over the house, in which there was much of interest to see.

Before leaving Nempnett the party motored to the parish church. The Rector (the Rev. A. S. Wilton) who had taken a great interest in the visit, was unable to meet them, having been called away through the death of his sister, and in his place the Rev. A. R. Faithfull, of Butcombe, read his notes. He mentioned that the village boasted a Street, anciently called the Witling, probably an off-shoot from the old road from Bream Down to Bath and Salisbury. In the parish was a reputed Saxon burial place. In the tumulus, when it was opened, was found stonework so constructed as to contain cells, but the stone had now disappeared, having been used to mend roads. The first form of the church was undoubtedly Norman, consisting of the old Norman nave with a Norman, archway, and until the chancel was rebuilt in 1896 there was a small apse at the east end. The tower dated from the 15th Century. The windows in the nave were Perpendicular. The font was the oldest link with the earliest church and the cover, pyramidical in design, was said to be 400 years old. An ancient porch stood on the south side, which at one time, no doubt, was the main entrance to the building but was now blocked up. The inner doorway was Norman, but had been tampered with. The old chancel arch formed the entrance to the vestry from the chancel and the windows now in the vestry were originally in the chancel. The church is beautifully kept and very beautiful, a noteworthy feature being the carved oak screen, though modern. One of the carved figures of the archangels is by Pugin, and the others from his studio, and the figures on the rood are from Ober Amergau.

The Rev. J. C. L. Malcomson and Mrs. Malcomson made the party very welcome to Norton Malreward, giving the Society the use of the Rectory for tea to be served. Showing the visitors the church the Rector discussed the legendary origin of the name of the village, that King John gave Sir John Hautville his lands in the parish after witnessing a prodigious feat of strength by Sir John, who carried three of the King's biggest soldiers to the top of the church tower at once, two under his arm and the other held with his teeth.

The King remarked that " it was small reward," hence " Mal reward." Mr. Malcomson thought the tale was invented to account for an inexplicable name.

The small church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was practically re-built on the site of a very ancient edifice, and still retains some exceptionally fine examples of Norman work. The church, since its early foundation, has undergone great changes both in style and dimensions. It consists at the present time of chancel, nave of three bays, with aisle, south transept, porch, and embattled western towers. The crowning glory of the entire building, without doubt, is the fine Norman arch dividing the nave from the chancel. Built in the later Norman style and beautifully carved in zig-zag and other devices, it is the more interesting because it forms one of the few remaining original portions of probably the first church erected on the present site. The font is Norman, square in shape, and ornamented by carving. In the porch is what appears to be the top of a tomb of very ancient date. Maes Knoll, a well-known hill at the eastern end of Dundry Hill, is within the parish of Norton Malreward. It is surmounted with ancient earthworks of a most interesting description. An ancient path in this parish, known as Here Path, or Warriors' Path, at one time connected with that earthwork stretching from Old Sarum to Portishead, called Woden's Dyke or Wansdyke, is still used as a public path.

The journey home was made via Queen Charlton and Keynsham, Bath being reached at 8 o'clock.

LECTURES, 1919.

CELTIC CROSSES.

On Wednesday, February 5th, a very interesting lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, was given by Mr. George Norman, F.S.A.I., on "Celtic Crosses," at the Literary and Scientific Institution. Colonel Kirkwood presided over a large gathering.

Mr. Norman said the earliest Celtic Christian monuments in the British Isles were rude pillar stones to which they could give no date, but as similar stones were erected in pagan times they must evidently start from the transition period between paganism and Christianity. In later times their place was taken by a new class of monuments, the date of which could be fixed by historical evidence, so that they could reach the conclusion that, roughly speaking, the pillars were erected during a period lasting from A.D. 410 to A.D. 700. These rude pillar stones were rough, unhewn monoliths, standing erect, having the Christian symbol incised on them, and often an inscription in debased Latin capitals or Oghams. Their geographical distribution was interesting—there were 121 in Ireland, 107 in Wales, 30 in Devon or Cornwall, but none in the rest of England, and five in Scotland. The Christian symbols that occurred on these stones were the Chi-Rho monogram, the Cross and the Alpha and Omega, but very few of the first were known—three in Cornwall, one in North Wales, and four in South-West Scotland, and none in Ireland. Dr. Norman showed how the early crosses were developed out of the Chi-Rho monograms, and said one of the earliest Christian symbols in Ireland was a Maltese cross within a circle. Some pillar stones had crosses but no inscriptions, such as the one called St. Patrick's chair at Marown, an ancient ecclesiastical site in the Isle of Man. The next class of monuments he dealt with was the sepulchral cross-slabs, over 180 speciemns of which were found at Clonmacnoise, on the Shannon, founded by St. Kieran in 554. All were inscribed in Irish lettering, and the cross in different forms was the sole Christian symbol, the forms gradually developing in complexity, the interlacing work which formed such a feature of the High crosses being in evidence. The next stage was a cross in relief on a stone slab, accompanied with a greater degree of ornamentation. Dr. Norman then dwelt in detail upon the actual crosses. The best examples of purely Celtic crosses occurred in Cornwall, Wales, North of England and Ireland. In England these were largely replaced by the Saxon crosses of later date and the part played by the Anglo-Saxons in these later developments had not been fully appreciated. In its highest development the chief peculiarity of Hiberno-Saxon art was the combination of interlaced work, spiral and key patterns and zoomorphic designs.

Local Examples.

These zoomorphic designs were to be found in this neighbourhood associated with an important event in early English Church history, viz., the death of St. Aldhelm, the founder of the Saxon church at Bradford-on-Avon, and the removal of his body from Doulting in Somerset, where he died, to Malmesbury in Wiltshire, where he was buried. William of Malmesbury told them that the progress was by seven stages, and that crosses were erected at each place where the body rested. Bishop Browne, of Bristol, who studied the subject a good deal, suggested that the seven places, which were at distances of about seven miles, were Frome, Westbury, Bradford, Bath, Colerne, Littleton Drew, and Malmesbury. It was an interesting thing that fragments of crosses bearing this very zoomorphic design were found at Frome, Bradford, Bath, Colerne, and Littleton Drew. Dr. Norman showed slides of these remains—the Bath fragment was in the museum, and he had photographed it for Dr. Browne. In Somerset there was one further example of a very fine character at West Camel.

After dealing finally with the High Crosses on which were sculptured the Crucifixion, the Temptation, Christ in his Glory, Daniel in the lion's den, the sacrifice of Isaac, David and the lion, and other Bible incidents, Dr. Norman commented upon their actual beauty, and said there was a higher and spiritual beauty connected with these Crosses of the Scriptures, for they were epitomes of the Christian religion —Bibles in stones, as they had been called. In an unlearned and ignorant age it was around these crosses that the monks themselves, and afterwards through them the ordinary people and children, learnt those saving truths which led to Ireland being called the Isle of Saints and the great missionary centre for the spread of the Gospel through Europe. From North Germany to South Italy, from Western France to the Danube, the work of the Irish monks was known and felt owing to the lessons they had learnt at the foot of the High Crosses. That was indeed the Golden Age of Ireland.

Mr. Norman was, on the proposition of Colonel Kirkwood, accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his lecture.

RHEIMS CATHEDRAL.

Colonel Kirkwood presided over a crowded audience, assembled at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Friday, March 28th, when a lecture on "Rheims Cathedral," by Sir Isambard Owen, Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University. The lecture was profusely illustrated by lantern slides, and proved most interesting. It occupied nearly two hours, the following is, of course, only the briefest summary.

The lecturer said that Rheims Cathedral was one of a type of the French churches of the period, built in the 13th Century—for it was started in 1211, opened for public worship in 1241, and finished towards the close of the century—it was a sister-cathedral to those at Paris, Amiens, Bourges and Chartrés, but it was the finest of them all. It was only surpassed in size by two churches in England, Westminster Abbey and York Cathedral, and even then it was higher than the Abbey, attaining 267 feet. Some idea of its height might be gauged from the fact that if placed in the Avon Gorge, the tower of Rheims Cathedral would still be 17 feet above the footwalk on Clifton suspension bridge. As a matter of fact, the architect, who was responsible for its design, had intended it to reach 120 feet higher than it now did, but the lofty spires, which would have made this possible, were never added to the building. The reason of the size and importance of Rheims Cathedral were easy to find. They lay in not a religious but a purely political cause. Clovis the first Christian ruler of France, was baptised in that little town in Champagne, and the custom of crowning the kings of France in the Cathedral of what grew to be an Archbishopric, only knew two exceptions, when monarchs were crowned elsewhere. The Lecturer went at length tnto the architectural features of the building, in which it is so rich, and explained in what way it conformed with the French type of ecclesiastical architecture, and in what respects it differed from the form more commonly found in England. The connection of ornament in the west front, the great rose window, and the twin towers by which it is flanked, are as characteristic of the French school of church building as is the disposition of the interior, with its sanctuary near the meeting point of nave and apex, and the semi-circular ambulatory at its rear, giving access to many little chapels. The 5,000 odd figures carved on the exterior of the edifice, and the identity of each, with its historical and religious significance, as well as minor points of interest, such as the famous 15th Century tapestries and 12th Century chalices, were all minutely explained by the speaker.

At the close Sir Isambard was heartily thanked for his most interesting lecture.

The following appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, 15th April, 1919:—

RHEIMS CATHEDRAL.

Extent of the Damage.

In view of the conflicting reports which have from time to time been published with regard to the damage done to Rheims Cathedral by the German bombardment, the following statement, which has been received from an authoritative source, is interesting:—

"Rheims Cathedral was built on the spot which tradition assigned to the baptism of Clovis—an event which gave to the Kings of France their titles of Roi Tres Chrétien and Premier Fils de l'Eglise. It early became the coronation church of the Capetian dynasty, and to it Charles VI. was brought by Joan of Arc to receive his crown and to save his country. It was considered to be one of the most noble and most beautiful examples of mediæval architecture in Europe. It was thus associated with the history, the patriotism, and the art of France in an exceptional degree, and perhaps appealed more to the French nation than did even Notre Dame or St. Denis. Probably for these reasons the Germans took special pains to reduce it to its present lamentable condition, a memorable mark of their handiwork.

"The western façade and portal are severely battered, the greater number of the pinnacles of the southern front have been shot away, the roof has several gaping holes in it, the high altar is a formless mass of debris, and the choir as such has ceased to exist. The glass has entirely disappeared—some, indeed, has been preserved, but most has been totally destroyed. All that really remains is the core of the fabric probably considerably shaken and weakened—and the remarkable series of statues within the west wall. Nothing in the way of restoration has yet been begun, and the public are shown the church by a guardian who tells them that it will take a generation to repair it. It is hard to conceive any better reminder of the German than the pathetic site of this monument of Gothic art, which the vandals of the twentieth century have left a shattered shell."

AIGUES MORTES: THE 13TH CENTURY STRONGHOLD OF ST. LOUIS.

A large gathering assembled at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Wednesday afternoon, November 26th, to hear a lecture by C. H. Bothamley, Esq., Hon. Secretary Weston-super-Mare and Axbridge Branch Somerset Archæological Society on "Aigues Mortes: the stronghold of St. Louis," the most perfect 13th Century walled town in Europe. The lecture was well illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. Bothamley said the walled town of Aigues Mortes stands amongst the lagoons at the mouth of the Little Rhone, some twenty miles from Nimes in one direction and Arles in another, and about three miles from the northern shore of the Gulf of Lyons. It is the most perfect 13th Century walled town in Western Europe; it has never become delapidated, and therefore has escaped "restoration" though necessary repairs and replacements have been carried out to towers and walls.

The town owes its origin to the desire of King Louis IX. (afterwards St. Louis) to construct a port to serve as a starting point for his crusades. The French borders of the Mediterranean were not then part of the kingdom of France, but the king obtained possession of the little port of Aigues Mortes from the Abbot and convent of Psalmodi close by, and gave them in exchange some land at Sommières. He then gave directions for the making of a port with necessary defences, and in particular the formation of a navigable canal from the town through the lagoons to the sea. The defences first erected may have been strong, but they must have consisted of banks and ditches, with palisades, and not of walls It seems clear also that the king arranged for the building of the great tower, which was completed before 1266.

From Aigues Mortes on August 28th, 1248, the king with a vast company set sail on his ill-fated expedition to the Holy Land.

The little port prospered and rapidly increased in size and importance, and the original defences became insufficient. In 1272 Philippe le Hardi, who had succeeded his father King Louis, made an arrangement with one William Boccanegra, a Genoese of wealth and position, who had entered the king's service, for the financing of works for the improvement of the port and the provision of town walls. Boccanegra was to provide in instalments a sum of 5,000 livres Turnois, equal to about £18,000 of modern money, and in return he and his heirs were to become part owners of the town with the king and his heirs. Many writers have described the existing walls as having been "built by Boccanegra for Philippe le Hardi," but Boccanegra died a year and a half after the agreement was made and the King subsequently bought out the widow and heirs. It is true that a substantial sum was expended before Boccanegra died, but it was probably mainly on the improvement of the port. He may have put in the foundations of the walls, but he certainly did not finish them because they were far from complete towards the close of the century. In 1289 the Seneschal of Beaucaire, Adam de Montceliard, by order of the king, Philippe-le-Bel, grandson of Saint Louis, made a report to the king on the condition of the port and walls and it is quite clear that even at that time a large part of the walls and towers as we now see them had still to be erected. Fresh arrangements for the work were made and the walls were probably completed by 1307, when Aigues Mortes was one of the strong places in which the Knights Templars were imprisoned by the King.

During the wars of religion in the 16th and 17th Century Aigues Mortes was one of the strong places assigned to the Huguenots. Later it was taken out of their possession and the Great Tower was used as a prison for women and children, some of whom, because only of their religious beliefs, were incarcerated for long periods. Probably other towers were used for the same purpose.

The plan of the town is approximately a rectangle, with one corner truncated, and outside this corner, which is convex towards the town, stands the great tower, the finest of its kind now that the great keep of Coucy-le-Chateau has been reduced to a heap of stones by German explosives. Before the south front lie the lagoons, and along the west front is the river (now canalised), whilst on the east and north is dry land intersected by canals and ditches and oftentimes under water in winter. The landward approach from Nimes is by a raised road across the marshes and about 2½ miles from the town a strong 13th Century tower (La Tour Carbonnière) stands across the road as a formidable outpost.

The great tower outside the N.W. angle is now connected with the town by a stone bridge of the 16th or early 17th Century; its parapets are looped for firearms. The original bridge was no doubt, wholly or partly built of wood. The tower had its own surrounding ditches and banks and palisades, but they have disappeared and the ditch was filled up in comparatively recent times. The tower is about 70ft. in diameter, and about 100ft. high, the walls being 21ft. thick. At the top is a lighthouse in the form of a turret some 30ft. high, surmounted by an iron cage which contained a basket for fuel; its use as a beacon was already well known at the end of the 13th Century.

The tower consists of three stages, all vaulted. The basement is a store, lighted by long slit loops; it contains a well and communicates with the floor above by a circular opening in the centre of the vault. The first and second floors are magnificent vaulted circular chambers lighted by very long slits or loops in splayed recesses with pointed rear arches. The first floor has a large fireplace with a hood above and an oven at the back; a doorway giving access to the well tube; and lockers in the wall, with stone shelves. The main entrance from the bridge is on this floor, and is very strongly defended by two doors and a portcullis. In the vault of the passage are two large openings from a chamber above for throwing missles on the heads of an enemy. In that chamber these openings have parapet walls which protected the defenders and supported the portcullis gear. From that chamber there is a passage in the thickness of the wall running all round the tower and opening into the upper part of the first floor chamber by a series of pointed arches. In this passage access could be obtained to the well tube and also to a garderobe. Opposite the main entrance is a postern, the door of which was many feet above ground; it was defended by a portcullis and in the vault of the passage is a large opening from a chamber similar to but smaller than that over the main entrance. In the vault of the main chamber is a circular opening directly above the opening from the basement and directly under a similar opening in the vault of the chamber above so that communication was possible through these openings from the basement to the top of the tower.

The second floor is reached from the first by a great newel stair which continues to the roof. Off this stair there is a lobby at the end of which on the left is a small oratory with a beautiful 13th Century vault springing from foliated capitals, whilst on the right is the door into the chamber. This second floor is similar to the first except that the fireplace is much smaller. There is no access to the well tube and there is a fairly large chamber in the thickness of the wall with an oblong window with stone window seats at the end. One of the loop recesses still has remains of a wood floor and of stone walling with a doorway, which shows that it was used as a prison cell, and probably the others were used in a similar way.

The roof of the tower is paved with flag stones. The battlements were altered in the 16th Century for the use of cannon before it was realised that from this height cannon fire was of little value.

The great tower is the only part of the existing fortifications erected in the time of St. Louis ; its architectural details are those of the middle of the 13th Century.

The town walls are 8 to 9 feet thick and 30 to 32 feet high, with a crenellated parapet with long arrow loops in the merlons. Throughout the whole range there is provision by means of square holes at the base of the parapet for the erection of the projecting wooden galleries known as hourds, intended to facilitate the defence of the base of the walls. At the N.W. angle and notably in the curved section opposite the great tower the parapet has been altered for the use of firearms. The walls are pierced in the lower part with long arrow loops at the back of deep recesses with stone side seats. On the east and south-east there recesses are lofty and somewhat close together, with pointed arches and supports for an intermediate platform ; in the rest of the walls the recesses are double the distance apart, are higher in the wall and have round arches. The latter are the later form and mark a distinct period in the building operations. The earlier form or recess was probably given up because it weakened the wall too much and was also expensive to build.

The walls are strengthened by towers at each angle, (except at the N.W., where the great tower stands) and also, on the north front, by two wall towers. All these towers are round to the field and flat towards the town. They have two vaulted stories, are roofed with flat stone slabs, and have a crenellated parapet. They are entered both at ground level and from the ramparts and have a newel stair from ground to roof. The upper chambers have large fireplaces with stone hoods and each tower is provided with at least one garderobe. There are also arrow slits [or in some cases windows] towards the field, and windows in recesses with stone side-seats towards the town.

There are five great gates, two on the north, one on the east, and two on the south; and there are five lesser gates or posterns, one on the east, three on the south, and one on the west.

The great gatehouses are of the same general design, with differences of detail. Each of them has two round towers towards the field, with the portal between them; towards the town the face of the gatehouse is flat and the rampart walk is carried behind the gatehouse and does not pass through the towers. The construction of the round towers is like that of the angle towers; between them on the ground floor is the portal and on the first floor the portcullis chamber. Only the west gate on the north front shows any signs of a drawbridge and there it was clearly an insertion imperfectly carried out.

Each portal was strongly defended. At the top there was a mâchicoulis projecting from the ramparts; in front of the portcullis was a large opening between the arches, reached from the portcullis chamber, for the projection of missiles on the heads of assailants; then came a portcullis behind which was a strong double-leaved door with a thick bar. In the crown of the vault is a large opening from the floor of the portcullis chamber, also for the projection of missiles. There was probably a second door and certainly a second portcullis. The entrances to the first floor chambers from the ramparts walk were likewise protected by mâchicoulis from the ramparts of the towers. Each gatehouse was, in fact, designed to be capable of independent defence.

The two gatehouses on the south front are peculiar in that the ground floor chambers in the towers have midway floors, and the portcullis chambers are in two stories, the front portcullis being worked from the upper story and the rear portcullis from the lower chamber.

The posterns are oblong in plan and have little projection; their portals have defences similar to those of the greater gates but simpler, because there is only one portcullis and one door, and, of course, no room for an opening in the crown of the portal. The upper part of these posterns, reached only from the rampart walk, consists of an oblong chamber which served as a portcullis chamber, and through which the rampart walk passes. In most cases there are steps down from the walk into the chamber at each end, and the doorways were protected by mâchicoulis at the top of the tower. There is a newel stair in a turret from the chamber to the top of the tower; the roof is covered with flag stones, and has a crenellated parapet.

The rampart walk was reached, not only from the towers by means of their newel stairs, but also direct from the ground by long flights of stone steps, magnificently built, rising against the inner faces of the great gatehouses and the angle towers; there are two flights of such steps to each great gatehouse and each angle tower, one rising from each side, and there is a similar independent flight against the west curtain.

One striking feature about the walls and towers of Aignes Mortes is the wealth of architectural ornament. Not only is the masonry as a whole of a very high class, but the rampart walks have finely moulded cornices, the vaulting ribs of the towers are finely moulded and the carving of the vaulting bosses and of many of the corbels is of a high degree of excellence. Some of the bosses and corbels in the great gatehouses on the east and south are as fine as anything to be found in ecclesiastical buildings of the same date.

Colonel Kirkwood, who was in the Chair, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bothamley for his interesting lecture, stated that the slides were prepared by the lecturer from his own photographs. The proposal was received with applause.

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH

Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society.

RULES.

1.—This Branch shall be called "THE BATH AND DISTRICT BRANCH."

2.—The District of the Branch shall be within the area from Brislington south to Chewton Mendip, thence east to Beckington, from there following the County Boundary round the north of Bath and back to Brislington.

3.—The Branch shall be managed by a Committee consisting of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, eight Ordinary Members and two Secretaries, one of whom shall also be Treasurer. The whole shall go out of office annually, but may be re-elected. Three shall form a quorum.

Note.—Members of the Council of the Parent Society who are Members of the Branch are ex-officio Members of the Committee.

4.—The Committee shall be chosen at a General Meeting, which shall be held in the month of March in each year, on a day to be fixed by the Committee. Casual vacancies may be filled up by the Committee, who may appoint sub-Committees for any general or special purposes.

5.—Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee or on the requisition of five Members. Seven clear days' notice of such meeting and its object shall be sent to every Member.

6.—The Committee shall arrange for visits to be made to objects of antiquarian, etc., interest within the District or within easy access therefrom, of which notice shall be sent to Members. Except in special cases, Members shall make their own arrangements for attending, and pay their own travelling or other expenses. Fees to attendants at Churches, etc., shall be paid out of funds of the Branch. Meetings at different places in the district for papers and discussions may be arranged by the Committee.

7.—The Subscription to the Branch shall be 5s. per annum for Ladies or Gentlemen, and become payable in advance in January. Any

Member in arrear shall not be allowed to join any of the excursions or take part in any of the proceedings of the Branch. Members may introduce a friend to any of the excursions, or when a paper is read. No person residing within the District shall be introduced oftener than once in the season. Members of the Parent Society are entitled to become Members of the Branch, on payment of their Subscription, without ballot.

8.—Members shall be elected by the Committee by ballot. Three fourths of those voting shall decide.

9.—The Rules of the Parent Society shall be considered as governing the Branch as to all matters not herein provided for, in the same manner as if such Rules were here repeated.

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

1919.

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1624091

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(* Are also Members of the Parent Society.)

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1903 Blathwayt Miss, Eagle House, Batheaston.
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1916 Brendon Mrs., 12, Burlington Street
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1913 Browne Miss — Dominick, 15, Marlborough Buildings.
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1919 Brymer Mrs., 13, Marlborough Buildings.
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1918 Butler Mrs., Priston Rectory.

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1916 Carr Miss, Manor House, Weston.
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1916 Carr Miss, Wood House, Twerton.
1916 Carr Miss J. F., Wood House, Twerton.
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1903 Clayton Colonel Emilius, Charlcombe Manor.
1903 Clayton Mrs., Charlcombe Manor.
1911 Colomb Mrs., 17, Darlington Place.
1904 Cooke Miss M. A. H., Lonsdale, Combe Down.
1912 Courtenay Miss E. F., 30, Rivers Street
1913 Cox Lieut-Colonel, Fonthill, Lansdown (Deceased).
1904 Curd Charles, Esq., 6, Gay Street.
1904 Curd Mrs., 6, Gay Street.

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1915 *Hignett Mrs., Hodshill, Southstoke.
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1903 *Hylton Right Hon. Lord, Ammerdown Park, Radstock.

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1919 King Mrs. C. A., Brookfield, Weston Road.
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1913 Massy Miss, 2, Duke Street.
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1913 Milsom Mrs., De Montalt, Combe Down.
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1910 Nash Mrs., 7, Laura Place.
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1907 Norman Mrs., 12, Brock Street.
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1913 Wills Mrs., Potticks House, Frankleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
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1913 Wills Mrs., 14, Royal Crescent.
1903 *Winwood Rev. H. H., F.G.S., 11, Cavendish Crescent.
1908 Wood Miss Ellen, 38, Combe Park.
1914 Wood Miss Margaret, 59, Combe Park.
1913 Woods John C., Esq., Bank House, Trowbridge.

1911 Young B. W., Esq., 1, Stanley Villas, Camden Road.

The Treasurer in account with the Bath and District Branch Somersetshire Archæological Society for 1919.

1919. Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	121	8	7
,, 173 Members' Subscriptions	43	5	0
,, Sale of Proceedings	1	18	6
,, Excursions	1	10	0
,, Dividends on 4½% War Loans	2	5	0
	£170	7	1

1919. Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By William Lewis & Son, Ltd., Printing and Illustrating Proceedings, 1918				32	13	0
,, William Lewis & Son, Ltd., Receipt Book, Circulars, *re* Meetings and Excursions ..				5	11	1
,, 3 Lectures—Hire of Room and Lantern				4	2	6
,, Rail Fare and Tips *re* Lectures ..				1	8	0
,, Postages of Proceedings and Circulars				1	15	2
,, Envelopes				0	9	10
,, Cheque Book				0	4	2
,, Hire of Rooms, Literary Institution				0	17	6
,, Donation, National Trust ..				1	1	0
,, Subscription, Somerset Archæological Society				1	1	0
				49	3	3
,, Balance 4½% War Loan	£50	0	0			
,, War Saving Certificates	38	15	0			
,, L. C., Westminster and Parrs	32	8	10			
				121	3	10
				£170	7	1

Audited and found correct—EDWARD SEGAR,
9th December, 1919.

THOS. S. BUSH, *Hon. Treasurer.*

The cost of the Proceedings for 1919 not included in the above.

SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH

1920.

BATH:
PRINTED AT THE HERALD PRESS.

was found many years ago in excavating by a workman, whose conscience some time afterwards pricked him and he gave it to his Vicar, Canon Thynne, at Seend, and Canon Thynne eventually restored it to Bromham. The Society of Antiquaries had examined it and said it was undoubtedly 12th Century and very interesting. Bromham churchyard has the grave of Thomas Moore, who spent his last days in a little cottage at Sloperton, in the civil, but not ecclesiastical parish of Bromham. He wrote of Bromham bells. Although a Roman Catholic, Tom Moore was buried by the Church of England in the churchyard, probably because his wife was buried there. The Celtic cross over his grave on the north side was seen.

NOTES BY MR. H. PARRY ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

In the Beauchamp Chapel are three brasses, only two of which are illustrated. The figure of John Baynton lies upon the floor, surrounded by a narrow marginal inscription, within the corners of which are four escutcheons with the arms of Baynton and allied families. These are omitted from the illustration in order that the principal figure may not be too greatly reduced. The whole brass measures 5ft. 5in. by 1ft. 10in. The figure of John Baynton is 3ft. high and is a typical example of early 16th Century armour, before stuffed breeches came into fashion.

The inscription says :—

> " Pray for the soul of John Baynton armiger, son and heir of Robert Baynton, knight, cousin and heir of Richard Beauchamp, Lord of Saint Amand, who died on the last day of the month of October, 1516. On whose soul may the Lord have mercy."

Another brass on the south wall of the chapel shows his descendant, Sir Edward Baynton, his two wives, and two of the three members of the family who survived, as recorded in the quaint verses underneath. One of the daughters is unfortunately missing. The change in armour between 1516 and 1578 is well shown, and the figures give a good idea of the dress of the period.

The third brass (not illustrated) is on the north wall of the chapel, and represents a lady in a kneeling position, clothed in a crimson mantle, and is principally remarkable for the fact that quite a considerable amount of the colouring matter remains, a consequence no doubt of its position on the wall.

After luncheon at the George and Dragon Hotel, Potterne, a visit was paid to the Church of St. Mary's. The Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Kewley), who received the members at the church, told them that Potterne was an ancient parish of such importance that it gave its name to the rural deanery and the hundred. The present church was built during the first half of the 13th Century and took the place of an older chapel attached to the manor house of the Bishop. The site of the latter was indicated by the " old churchyard " in the village, in which, during digging lately for foundations, the remains of five people, perfect specimens of skeletons they were, were disturbed and had been re-interred in the new churchyard. The font of the old Saxon church, a great plain, round, tub-shaped bowl, was found buried under the present church during the restoration by Mr. Christian in 1872, and was now preserved in the church. The church is a cruciform structure, consisting of nave without aisles, chancel, central tower, and short transepts. The nave has a north porch of the same date, and a south porch added in the 15th Century. The great feature of the place is its extreme simplicity and regularity, wrote Mr. C. W. Purday, who was associated with Mr. Christian in carrying out the restoration, and the same characteristics mark the architecture, sculpture being entirely absent, and mouldings being only used in a very sparing manner, but the want of elaboration is amply compensated by good proportion and refinement of detail. Externally the church has the same simplicity of detail. The north door is the original door of the church, almost a unique specimen of early 13th Century woodwork. It had disappeared, but at the restoration was recovered from the village, and found to fit the north doorway perfectly.

There are few more delightful buildings than the old Porch house, which was inspected by the kind permission of the owner, Mr. C. H. St. John Hornby, the Vicar again acting as guide. The outside is familiar to tourists, but the charm of the interior is even greater. It is a magnificent specimen of a half-timbered house, 300 or 400 years old, to-day in much the same state as when it was erected. It is variously thought to have first been a rich Flemish merchant's house, or a "Church House," and it has undergone many vicissitudes, being successively a post house (the Pack Horse), a bakehouse, a barrack, and as tenements, which latter caused considerable damage to its beauties. Happily it fell into the hands of the late George Richmond, R.A., in 1872, and by him was carefully restored. It has a lofty dining hall with an oriel, and some wonderful old upper chambers, and it is to be seen to-day at its best, for Mr. Hornby has furnished it with a wonderful collection of antique furniture. The restoration was admirably

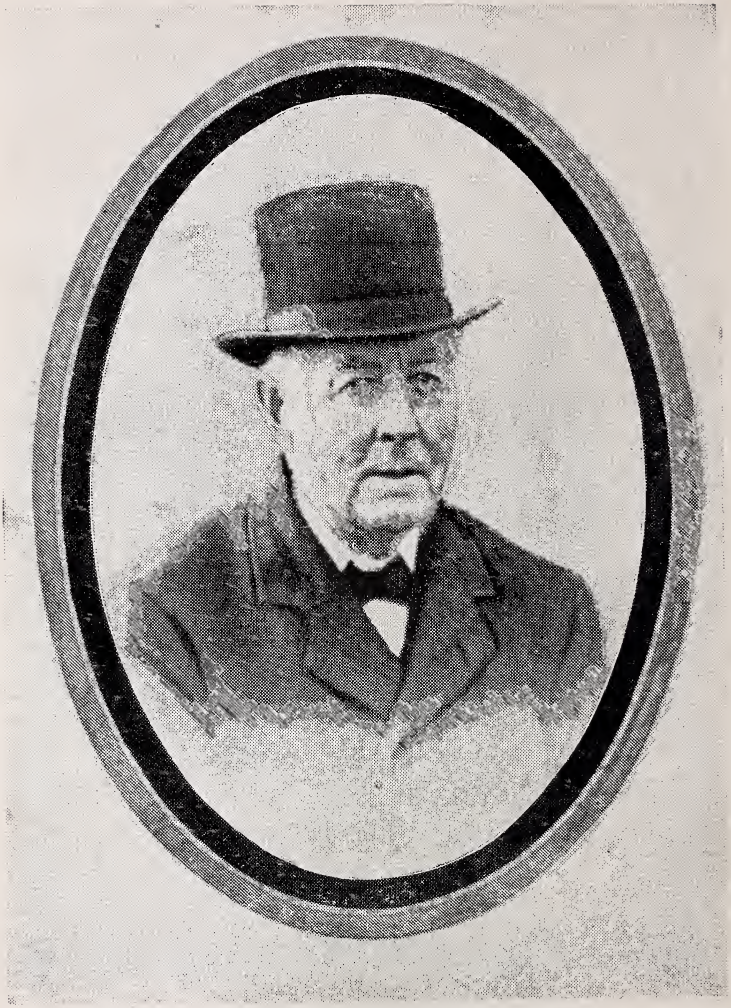


Photo enlarged from group taken on Lansdown by Mr. Gerald Grey.

REV. H. H. WINWOOD, M.A., F.G.S.

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH

SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

REPORT, 1920.

THE Committee having withdrawn the limit, 170, to the number of members which had been in force for several years, the result was a very considerable addition to the list, as will be seen by the following figures. Commencing the year with 169, there was one death early in the season, four resignations, and three defaulters, later on there were four further deaths, a loss of twelve, fifty-eight have been elected, thus closing the year with 215.

A Special Meeting of the Committee was held on March 11th, when the following resolution was adopted:—"The Committee deeply regret the death of Colonel Hendley P. Kirkwood. He always took an active interest in the Branch from its formation in 1903 and was a member of the Provisional Committee. In 1904 he was elected on the Committee and had each year been re-appointed. Three years ago he was elected Chairman on the retirement of the Rev. H. H. Winwood."

This was ordered to be sent to Mr. W. G. Kirkwood, his brother and executor.

At a Special Meeting of the Committee, held on 30th December, the following resolution was carried unanimously:

"The Committee deeply regret the death of the Rev. H. H. Winwood, M.A., F.G.S. During the formation of this Branch in 1903, he rendered hearty assistance and continued to do so until his health broke down in 1916. This caused him to resign the office of Chairman of the Committee which he had held from its inception. He provided papers on Antiquities and on his special subject Geology, these have been published in the Proceedings. He also took an active interest in the explorations that were carried out on Lansdown, Englishcombe and Hampton Down."

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to forward the above to Colonel Winwood.

An account of the Annual Meeting, Earl Waldegrave, President, in the Chair, will follow this report.

The thanks of the Committee are due to the following :—Mr. Gerald Grey for so well arranging the five excursions; all proved of interest and were well attended by an average of 50. Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A., for a lecture on "Glastonbury Abbey"; the Rev. Ethelbert Horne, on "From Norman to Perpendicular: a description of the Restoration of Somerset Churches in the 15th Century"; and Mr. C. H. Bothamley on "Carcassonne"; Mr. H. Parry for notes on Cliftune in 970, with plan and for rubbings of brasses in the churches of Bromham and Lacock; and Mr. Thos. S. Bush on St. Mary Magdalene, Holloway, with deed and translation; also to Mr. Thos. S. Bush for carrying out the duties of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. The accounts, which have been audited by Mr. Segar, will, no doubt, be considered satisfactory.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1920.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Literary Institution on Thursday, March 4th, at 3 o'clock. Present: Earl Waldegrave, President (in the Chair), Mr. E. Cay Adams, Miss Airey, Mrs. Bird, Major-General Bradshaw, Mr. Brendon, Mr. R. C. Bush, Mrs. Thos. S. Bush, Colonel Arnoll Davis, Miss Grierson, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Ingham, Mrs. Layton, Miss Lindsay, Colonel Mainwaring, Miss Meredith, Miss Newham, Dr. and Miss K. O'Sullivan, Rev. R. M. Perkes, Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn, Mr. and Mrs. E. Pryce, Mr. John Quinton, Colonel Rolleston, Miss Rodman, Miss Salmon, Mr. M. H. Scott, Mr. Tanner, Mr. Wace, Miss E. M. Wood, Miss M. A. Wood, Mr. Thos. S. Bush (hon. secretary and treasurer), Mr. Grey (hon. excursion secretary). Letters of regret for non-attendance were received from Colonel Leigh, the Rev. Ethelbert Horne, Mr. Kemeys-Tynte and Mr. Norman.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman, moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts, remarked that the Society was in a satisfactory condition, despite the still abnormal times. An important alteration had been made by the Committee. Previously the Branch was limited to 170 members, but the Committee had decided to remove the limit, so large were the number of applications to join, and already 22 new members had been elected. He believed Mr. Grey had been able to arrange some interesting excursions this year. He did not know about the question of resuming the excavations which he and Mr. Bush and Mr. Grey were so interested in. The cost of labour was so great, but it might be possible to secure the assistance of some ex-soldiers, who had been accustomed to dig trenches in France, who would like the work. Mr. C. R. Brendon seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Major-General Bradshaw, seconded by Mr. R. C. Bush, Earl Waldegrave was re-elected President, appreciation being expressed of his Lordship's interest and help.

Lord Strachie and Captain C. T. Foxcroft, M.P., were re-elected Vice-Presidents, on the motion of Mr. T. J. Holmes, seconded by Major-General Bradshaw.

The following resolutions were adopted :—

Mr. Cay Adams proposed, and Mr. H. Wace seconded : " That the following form the Committee : Colonel Kirkwood, Major-General Bradshaw, Colonel Clayton, Mr. St. D. Kemeys-Tynte, Lieut.-Colonel Leigh, Mr. G. Norman, Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn, and Mr. M. H. Scott."

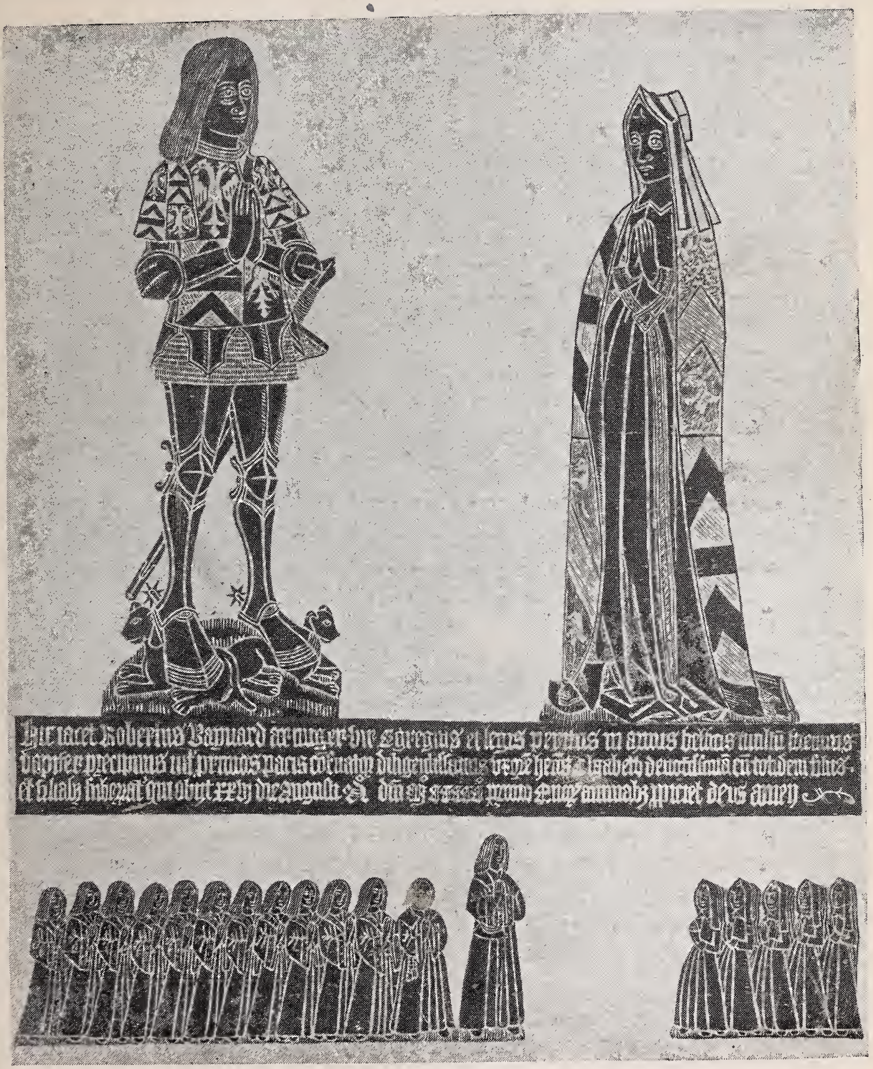
Dr. O'Sullivan proposed and Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn seconded the re-election of Mr. Thos. S. Bush as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. Bush having returned thanks, said the present membership was about 181. The President mentioned that twenty-two have been elected this year ; on the other side there were a few resignations. Having expressed his indebtedness to Mr. E. Segar for auditing the accounts, Mr. Bush referred to the question of excavations. There is a field he is very anxious to explore, and had about £8 in hand for the purpose, but, of course, this would not go far with the present high rate of wages ; he was too old to undertake supervision of the work, so would be glad to hear of a volunteer.

Colonel Mainwaring proposed and Mr. Thos. S. Bush seconded the election of Mr. Gerald Grey as Hon. Excursion Secretary.

Mr. Grey said he had great difficulty last year in getting charabancs to meet requirements. This year he was promised three which would meet their needs. The following excursions had been tentatively arranged : April 27th, Corsham and Lacock ; May 21st, Wells ; June 18th, Seend, Pottern and Bromham ; July 16th, Mells, Elm, Whatley and Nunney ; September 14th, Grittleton.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Earl Waldegrave for presiding, proposed by Dr. O'Sullivan, seconded by Colonel Rolleston.



CHURCH OF ST. CYRIAC. LACOCK.

Memorial of Robert Baynard (ob. 1501) and his wife, Elizabeth (Ludlow) and their family of eighteen children.

EXCURSIONS.

CORSHAM AND LACOCK,

MONDAY, APRIL 26TH, 1920.

Under delightful conditions the first excursion of the season took place on Monday afternoon, April 26th, to Corsham and Lacock, forty-six members attended. The Branch was much indebted to Mr. Harold Brakspear, F.S.A., who kindly acted as guide at both places.

The Church of St. Bartholomew, Corsham, was first visited by permission of the Rev. A. J. Winnington Ingram. Mr. Brakspear reminded his hearers that they had come to a very old place. Corsham was one of the dower manors of the Queens of England from Early Saxon days, and they had documentary evidence that there was a church there at Domesday. It belonged to the Abbey of St. Stephen, Caen, in Normandy. The church, although only a parish church, was endowed with lands which were still known as the Rectory Manor, and it was one of the few endowments of that early period still separate in that way. The earliest church was Saxon, as the narrow nave alone would have told them. The Saxon church had an aisleless church, a central tower, and some sort of chancel, and on either side of the tower were "paddle-box" transeptral chapels of the late Saxon times. Early in the 12th Century the place apparently grew, and the church was not large enough, so they set about adding to it in the usual way, by adding aisles to the nave. The mediæval way of enlarging the church was not to clear the ground and closing the church, but build straight away. The church was always in use, and, therefore, any additions or alteration to an existing church had to be done piecemeal, so as not to disturb the services. So the outer walls of the aisles were built and the roof, then holes were cut in the nave walls to put in the columns, and finally, the blocking work of the original walls removed. Thus the nave walls above the arcading were much later than the arcading itself. Before the north aisle was finished it was enlarged by a bay at the western end, and then they added the south aisle to match the north. Later the chancel was rebuilt, and new transepts added, and there was scarcely anything left of what was there before the 12th Century restoration. The next building was the big north aisle, dating from 1232, which was virtually the same as at Malmesbury. In the 15th Century the chapel on the north of the chancel was built. The Vicar of Corsham at one time had a right to draft wills, and the little place now used as a vestry was a consistory court. It was always reputed to be so, but some time ago he found in one of the old registers a list of the seats which mentioned "seats next the consistory." Then came the disastrous times when people wanted to restore churches, and everybody must regret what had happened there. There had been a central tower, the original Saxon tower with 13th Century arches inserted in it, and that had gone. The new tower was built "in the character" of the old one, but was not a bit like it, but they must be thankful that more damage was not done. There were suggestions that the proper place for the tower was the site of the old porch.

The members then walked down the avenue and visited the 17th Century almshouses, inspecting the fine old schoolroom. Mr. Brakspear related that the land was bought by Lady Margaret Hungerford in 1664, and the building was completed in 1668. The educational part of the charity was no longer existent; the trustees gave £20 a year to the county education authority, which was expended upon prizes for the children of the parish. The founders did not stipulate whether the almshouses were for old men or women (it was now only for old women), but she did stipulate that there should be no children, because "wherever there were children there was discontent and strife between the owners of the children." Some of the foundation rules were funny reading at the present time, because the old people had to have an income of not more than £5, and out of that had to expend no less than £1 in the autumn upon wood and coal, so that they should not "thieve in the copses and hedges for firing." How they lived he did not know, because out of the rest of this £5 they had to keep their windows, chimneys and doors in order. In the schoolroom was a very beautiful old master's desk, and the pews in which the old people had to come for the opening and closing of the school, and a most charming screen of oak that had never been painted.

At Lacock the Parish Church of St. Cyriach was visited, by permission of the Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Ramsbottom). It was a very fine building for a village church, said Mr. Brakspear. The earliest building that they knew existed was a church of Norman date which had columns indicating that it had one aisle at least. The first alteration they had knowledge of was the building of the chancel and the very large transepts, in the 14th Century—the south transept had been rebuilt at a more recent period again, but the north transept remained pretty much as the 14th Century builders left it. Unfortunately, in the last century the transept walls had been raised and the whole proportion of the original work destroyed. It was hoped to put it back again, but he was afraid that was now impossible on account of the cost. The very beautiful Lady Chapel on the north side of the chancel was an extraordinary piece of good work and still retained its original gilding on the western arch—the rest was re-coloured in the 17th Century. The arms of the bishop of the period dated it as between 1427 and 1435, which was much earlier than one would have supposed. Later the aisle on the north side of the nave was re-built, and the original design followed very much that of the chapel. It was intended to be vaulted and was in three bays. The present roof was the original one, but unfortunately it was boarded over about 60 years ago. Mr. Brakspear drew attention to the extraordinary east window over the chancel arch. The old 14th Century chancel arch remained until quite recently, when the rebuilding of the chancel was taken in hand and the present arch inserted. The chancel was rebuilt in 1903 in memory of the father of the late Mr. Talbot; who was one of the inventors of photography.

NOTES BY MR. H. PARRY ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

In the floor at the and of the south transept is a fine heraldic brass, showing the figures of Robert Baynard and his wife, Elizabeth Ludlow (about 2ft. 3in. high), clad respectively in tabard and heraldic mantle. Originally, of course, the tabard and mantle were shown in the proper heraldic colours, the colouring matter being usually glazed earthenware of a rather hard kind, let into the brass, those parts alone, which represented or or argent being left at the general level, and gilt or silvered as necessary.

The arms displayed on the front and sleeves of the gentleman's tabard are:—

Quarterly: 1 and 4, a two-headed eagle displayed, Gules, membered, azure (Bluett); 2 and 3, a fess between two chevrons or (Baynard).

The lady's mantle has:—

Quarterly: 1 and 4, Baynard, as above; 2 and 3, Argent, a chevron between three martens' heads erased sable (Ludlow).

The authorities differ as to whether these animals are martens, dogs or foxes.

Upwards of 400 years of trampling has naturally removed all trace of colour. Underneath is shown the family. The first of the thirteen boys, presumably the heir, has a large purse attached to his girdle, and the second is a priest, tonsured. All the daughters have long hair indicating that they were unmarried at the date of the brass. The inscription states :—

> "Here lies Robert Baynard armiger, a noble man, skilled in the law, strong in warlike arms, principal dapifer, the most diligent preserver of peace among the highest, having a most devoted wife Elizabeth with as many sons and daughters as appear underneath, who died 26th August, 1501. On whose souls may the Lord have mercy."

Finally the members visited Lacock Abbey, where Mr. Brakspear related the founding of the Abbey by Ela Countess of Salisbury in her own right in 1232. It was for nuns or canonesses of the Order of St. Augustine, and she herself took the veil. The nunneries of the Augustines, of which there were only a few, were very much on the same plan. All had great aisleless churches and a cloister upon which were grouped the buildings necessary for the life of the nunnery. None of the church remained at Lacock except the north wall, which ran from the buttress (as it looked now, though it was how the west wall was shaped when the church was pulled down at the Dissolution of the Greater Monasteries) to the tower. The church was a long aisleless parallelogram and vaulted from end to end. It was entered at the west end and also by doors into the cloisters towards the west end and also towards the east end. In 1315 the owner of Lackham (Blewitt) had a license to build a large Lady Chapel on the church for the burial of himself and family, and to endow it, and fortunately they had preserved the agreement between the Abbess and convent and John Blewitt. It was an interesting document showing the size of the Lady Chapel was to be three bays of the original church, but the chapel was to have only two bays. On the east side of the cloister, above, was the dorter or sleeping room, and below the chapter house and warming room. Opposite was the great dining hall or frater, and on the south the guest house with the Abbess's hall above, and at the end the great kitchen. The Abbey was converted into a magnificent dwelling by Sir William Sherington, himself an amateur architect, who added the fine range of 18th Century buildings round the courtyard.

Before leaving Colonel Clayton voiced the thanks of the members to Mr. Harold Brakspear for his kindness in acting as guide at Corsham and Lacock. Tea was partaken of at the Red Lion, Bath being reached at 6.30.

WELLS.

Friday, May 21st, 1920.

The second excursion took place in beautiful weather, and forty-six members started at 10.30 a.m. from Queen Square. The drive over the Mendips was much enjoyed.

The Dean (the Very Rev. J. Armitage Robinson) had intended himself to act as guide to the cathedral, but was unavoidably away, attending a meeting at Lambeth Palace, and in his place the Bishop of Taunton (Dr. de Salis) received the members, accompanied them round the cathedral, and went to a good deal of trouble to secure a good guide, the Rev. G. W. Saunders, Vicar of Martock, who kindly came over specially for the purpose. Mr. Saunders has a considerable knowledge of the subject, and in a most interesting manner told the chief points of the history of the cathedral and its building, as well as pointing out the leading architectural features. The North porch, he said, was, perhaps, the earliest part of the cathedral, and contained the only trace of Norman work in the whole building, which was the first in the country when the pointed arch had taken supreme rule. Inside the porch was the purest specimen of French Gothic arcading in the country. The first bishop or builder of whom they knew much was Bishop Guiso, 1061. His cathedral, which had fallen into disrepair, was repaired and partly rebuilt by Bishop Robert, 1136—1166, and consecrated in 1148. The present building was commenced by Bishop Reginald de Bohum (1174—1191). The question as to whether any of Robert's cathedral remained had been almost settled by Sir William St. John Hope, who suggested that the streets of Wells almost proved that the site of Robert's cathedral was not on the present site, but just to the south. That would explain why there was scarcely any Norman work—the Norman cathedral remained standing and in use while Bishop Reginald's was being built. Mr. Saunders observed that Reginald's cathedral was smaller than the present building, extending from the North porch to three bays of the choir, and pointed out the many differences in the architecture of his building and the later work—the masonry used in the earlier work was smaller, the heads over the triforia were smaller, and the circles above were sunk in the old work and flush with the wall in the western work. In the early capitals figures were carried; in the later there was a wonderful collection of foliage but no figures. Bishop Joceline built the West front and added it to the cathedral by these later western arches. Mr. Saunders also pointed out the difference between Bishop Reginald's choir bays and the more detailed work of the 13th Century additions to the east of it. The cap of the third original pillar was a little rounded, while the others were angular, showing that an attempt had been made to make them match the new pillars, and then the attempt was abandoned. A visit was also paid to the Under-croft, the Cathedral's treasury in the days before banks, and the glorious Chapter House.

The Bishop of Taunton pointed out the new Rood in the inverted nave arch of the tower, given by the lady who presented the figures in the niches above the high altar, and observed that they added dignity to the cathedral and filled what had always seemed a gap.

The afternoon opened with a visit to the Palace grounds, but the members had an unexpected pleasure, the Bishop of Bath and Wells welcoming them to the Palace itself and showing them the old hall, the crypt, which is on the ground floor level, and the Bishop's private chapel. The house, he explained, was built by Bishop Joceline in 1240, and that house and the famous front was really the result of the signing of Magna Charta. John did not like signing Magna Charta, and the bishop who had been working hardest to make him sign it was banished till the King died. While he was abroad Joceline had been studying the French Gothic architecture, which had become familiar to them in the war, at Amiens and Rouen. They would have noticed the likeness between the west front of Wells Cathedral and the church at Rouen. He came back determined to pull down the old front of the cathedral and the bishop's house, which was Norman, and build in French Gothic. The chapel dated from 1290, and though the large bosses on which the pillars were made to start had all been restored and strengthened, with that exception all the carving in the ceiling was done in 1290 and was exquisitely beautiful in every way. Dr. Kennion pointed out the beauty of the proportions and tracery of the windows, other than the more modern west window (which replaced the older one blown down in a storm), and drew attention to one of the oldest pieces of woodwork in the country, the original Glastonbury chair from which all the Glastonbury chairs in the world had been copied. It had a new seat and legs, but it was the original chair brought from Glastonbury soon after the dissolution of the monastery.

Next a visit was paid to the Museum, where Mr. H. E. Balch, F.S.A., showed the paleolethic remains, and told a fascinating story of the life of the tribe which from 300 B.C. lived in Wookey Hole. He showed evidence of their wonderful skill at weaving, iron work, and pottery. A silver Roman coin, 120 B.C. confirmed them in their date. Their weaving implements were very fine, and showed that they worked fabrics and were no skin-clothed savages. Some beautiful specimens of turning were found and some specimens of iron work which happily had been preserved and were not rusty. They were the people who brought the use of iron to Somerset. A billhook of the same type as a modern one was found and a saw, but with the teeth set in the opposite direction to the present saw. Iron was rare and was used by them for brooches and there was an iron currency bar, of a rare size, a quarter unit. The state of the bones found proved that at one period the tribe were cannibals. Human remains unburied showed that the last occupant of the cave died alone, and there existed an old tale in the district that a witch lived and died in the cave.

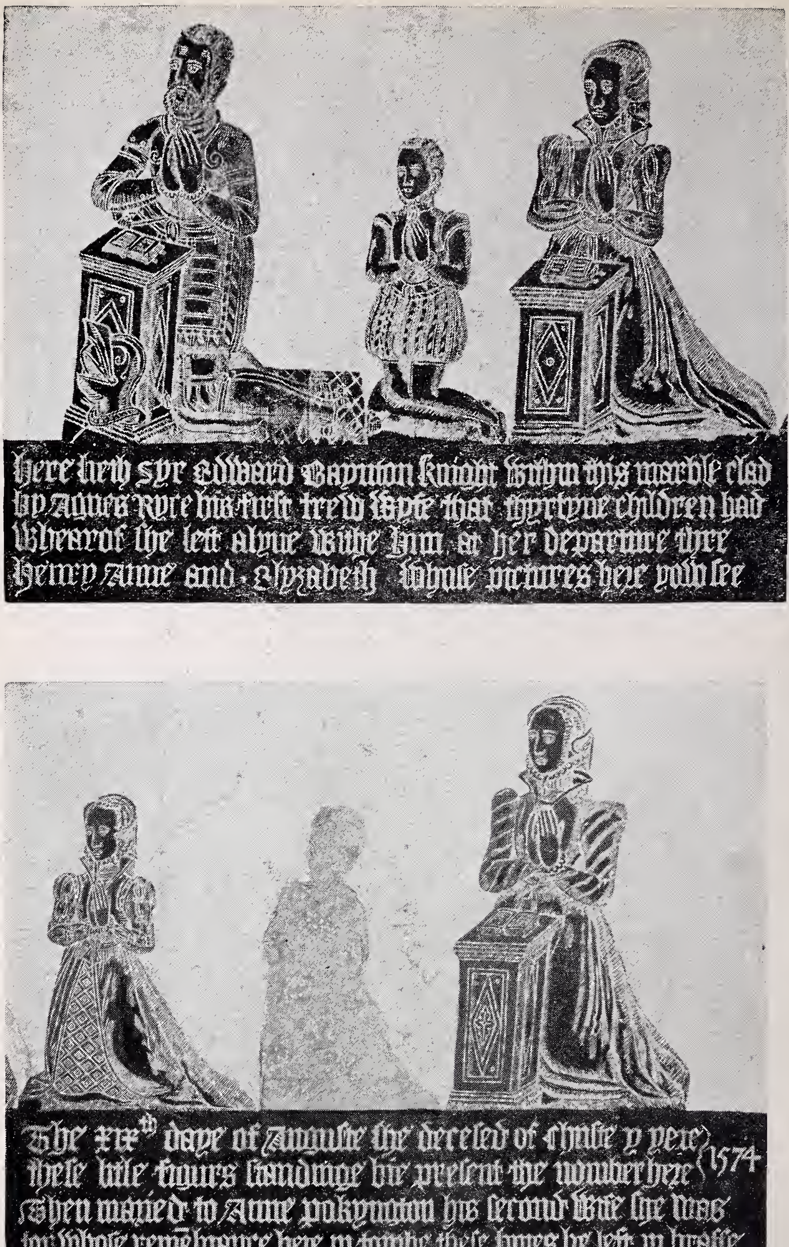
The Cathedral Library and its chain Bibles were then inspected under the guidance of Sir Edward Maunder Thompson, and finally a visit was paid to St. Cuthbert's Church (by permission of the Rev. H. E. Wake, where Mr. S. F. Goodall gave an interesting account of what can be described as the civic church of Wells. It is one of the largest parish churches in the diocese, being 200ft. long and occupying an area of over 12,000 square feet. The first church was Early English (and with the exception of the chapels it to-day followed the same plan) ; in the 14th century the walls and columns were raised, and later the roof was added, the height being again raised. When the tower was built it was built 12ft. away from the church and added to the church by another bay. The church originally had an early English tower, with low arches. The Corporation had done a great deal for the church, and the Early English building on the north side, now used as a vestry, was known as the Exchequer, where the Corporation used to keep their documents. The Corporation still appointed one of the wardens. The Corporation were originally called a Guild, the Guild of the Holy Trinity, and had their own chapel. They annually paid £7 6s. 8d. to the curate through the Vicar. The old oak stalls which formed the Corporation seats were some of the earliest carvings in the country, having been removed there from Glastonbury Abbey. They bore Abbot Beavis's rebus. Mr. Goodall mentioned in regard to the Jesse Altar that the contract still existed which the Corporation made for the rebuilding of the altar, the subject of which was the descent of Our Lord from King David, and the work was carried out for £40. Afterwards the visitors inspected the very valuable and interesting plate, the oldest of which was a very fine Elizabethan cup, 1573.

Luncheon and tea were partaken of at Wickenden's Restaurant. After a very enjoyable day Bath was reached about 7 o'clock.

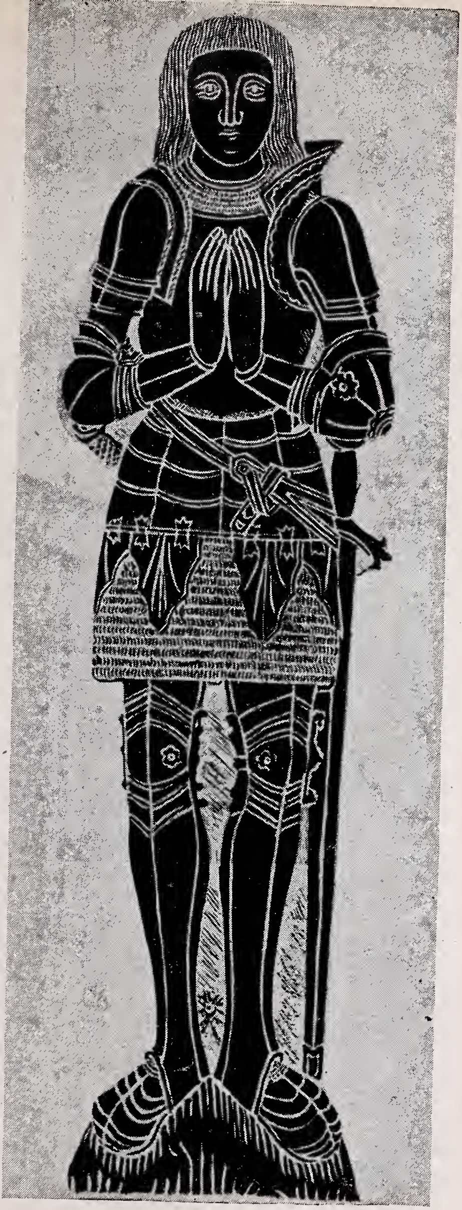
BROMHAM, POTTERNE AND SEEND.

Friday, June 18th, 1920.

Fine weather again favoured this excursion, forty-eight members attended. Starting from Fountain Buildings at 10.30 a.m., Bromham was first visited, and the members were received at the Church of St. Nicholas by the Rector, the Rev. J. L. Thorold. Attention was at once rivetted by the beautiful south chancel aisle, the Bayntun Chapel, built by Richard Beauchamp in the 15th Century. Its handsome exterior has an embattled parapet with pinnacles, and there are some exceptionally fine gargoyles. The Rector, in pointing out the features of the interior, remarked that it was a proprietary chapel, and Captain Spicer, of Spye Park, as lord of the manor, was responsible for the upkeep. He took a great interest in it, and some years ago, with the assistance of Mr. Brakspear, he had it put in order at considerable expense. Some of the old tombs and brasses still remained, but up to the beginning of last century it was debased by being used as a school, and that explained why the altar tomb of Purbeck marble, and other memorials, were covered with dates and initials cut by the children. The church is Perpendicular, but the nave was Norman, and Norman windows, the oldest part of the church, remains on the outside on the north side. There is also an interesting Norman doorway leading into the vestry, which was evidently original, for it was formerly the only way up into the pulpit. Mr. Thorold, who with his wife has discreetly and considerably beautified the east end, showed the society an interesting relic, the lid of a 12th Century incense boat, still bearing traces of the colours of the old enamelling. It


here lieth syr edward Baynton knight within this marble clad
by Agnes Ryce his first trew wyfe that thyrtyne children had
whereof she left alyve withe him at her departure thre
Henry Anne and Elyzabeth whose pictures here yow see
The xixth daye of Auguste she deceased of Christe y yere 1574
these vile figures standinge hir present the number here
when maried to Anne Pakyngton his second wife she was
in whose remēbrance here in tombe these lynes be left in brasse
Anno Dñi 1578

BROMHAM CHURCH.
Memorial of Sir Edward Baynton and his two wives, Agnes Ryce and Anne Pakyngton, and his family, 1578.

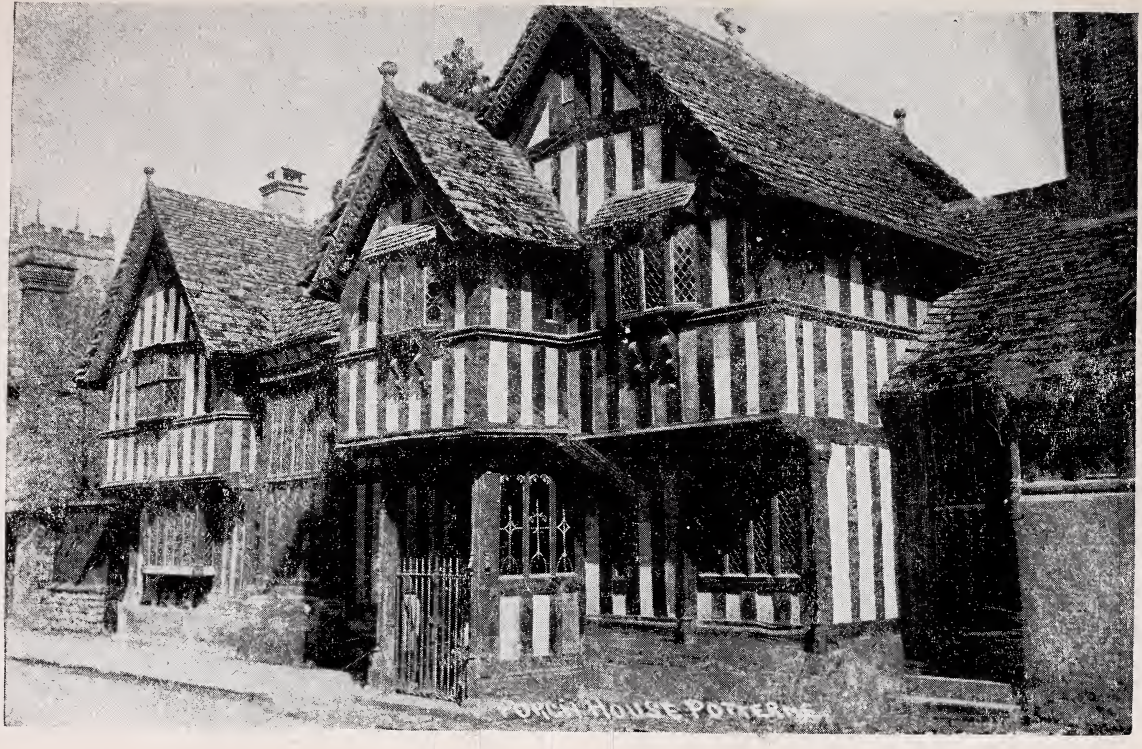


BROMHAM CHURCH.

Memorial of John Baynton, Esq., ob. 1516.

Marginal Inscription.

Orate pro anima Johannis Baynton armigeri, filii et heredis Roberti Baynton. militis consanguinei et heredis Ricardi Beauchamp Domini de sancto amando, qui obiit ultimo die mensis Octobris anno Domini. millesimo quingentesimo decimo sexto. cuius animae propicietur Deus.


PORCH HOUSE POTTERNE

[*Photo supplied by Mr. C. H. St. J. Hornby.*

PORCH HOUSE, POTTERNE.

carried out and the desecrating alterations and additions have been carefully eliminated.

The Church of the Holy Cross, Seend, was visited under the guidance of the Vicar, the Rev. H. C. Bush, who was accompanied by Mr. Edward Kite (a great authority on the church, and Mr. Schomberg). The Vicar said that Seend was formerly a chapel annexed to Melksham, and probably dated back like the North Church, to a Norman church of nave and chancel. Later a western tower was added and a small lady chapel, which now formed the eastern portion of the south aisle. In the latter half of the 15th Century, the present nave with its arcades, clerestory, and fine timbered roof of Spanish chestnut, was rebuilt in the Perpendicular style. The present chancel was rebuilt in 1876 on the old foundation. The lower part of the chancel walls and two lower strata of the tower appeared to be the most ancient part of the present fabric. The north aisle was a memorial of the cloth trade in Potterne, being added at the cost of John Stokes, a Seend clothier, whose brass, with effigies of himself and wife, is still preserved within. The church had contained a great deal of painted glass, beaten down by William Summer, 1648, and a few fragments remained in the clerestory windows. As to the origin of the dedication, Mr. Bush pointed out that cloth workers settled at Seend from Bruges in Belgium, and the Holy Cross was a very special day with them. They probably dedicated the church to Holy Cross in memory of their old home in Bruges. Outside, on the western end of the north aisle, was the Crucifixion, a most unusual feature.

Tea was partaken of at the King's Arms Hotel, Melksham. After an hour's drive Bath was reached at 6.30.

GLASTONBURY.

Friday, July 16th, 1920.

Sixty-three members visited Glastonbury; the weather being propitious the party spent a very enjoyable day. Unfortunately Mr. F. Bligh Bond had been called to London and could not act as guide during the visit to the Abbey, nor could Captain Bartlett, his assistant, attend, while the Vicar of St. John's (the Rev. C. V. P. Day) was also away. But throughout the day the members had the kind services of the Rev. T. Williams, Vicar of St. Benedict.

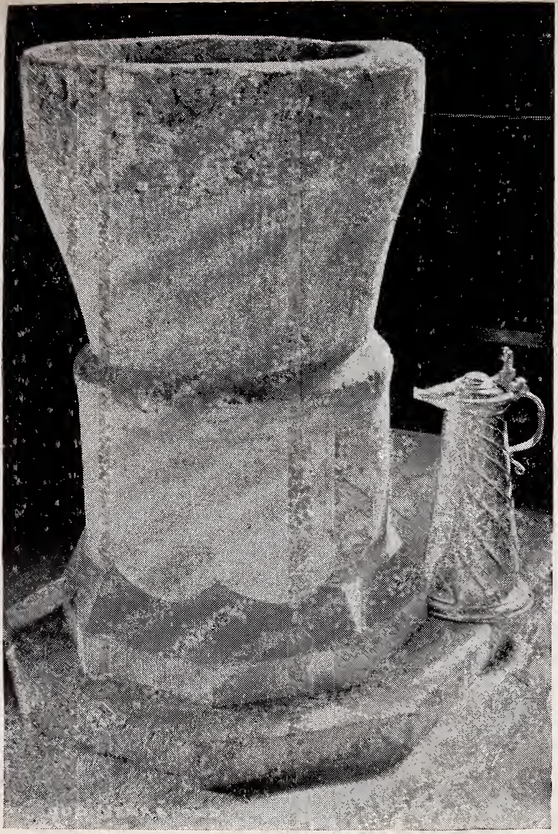
On arrival at the Church of St. John's, the Rev. T. Williams received the members. In a short description he said it was difficult to say which is the more ancient of the two churches in Glastonbury, this one or St. Benedict. The present church of St. John's is probably a little later, but St. John's is much finer and more handsome. Some consider it one of the finest in Somerset. Both churches were built under the supervision of the Abbey authorities as secular churches for the inhabitants of the town. St. John's has been enlarged several times, and in modern times a great many things were added. Much admired is the roof, most of which is late 15th Century work. The side chapel was added some ten years ago, a very fine screen having been designed by Mr. Bligh Bond. The chapel has a reproduction of an old English altar. A most interesting relic is an old cope, of date about 1500, formerly worn by the celebrant in pre-Reformation times, which had been pieced together and used as a pall. There is an old north door which at baptisms was left open in order that the evil spirit when exercised might go out. Besides a marble tomb there is a parish chest excellently preserved, with its three locks for the Vicar and churchwardens, who could thus only open it in company. Over the porch on the south side is the priest's chamber—his only "vicarage" in pre-Reformation times, where he lived and could always be found.

After luncheon the members inspected the Abbey ruins and recent excavations. (*For full account of the Abbey Explorations see Mr. Bligh Bond's lecture*).

The Church of St. Benedict was next visited. Mr. Williams pointed out that a gargoyle on the tower represented from one point of view the head of Abbot Beere and at another point a grotesque animal. On the tower was marked the height of the water when the sea came up from Burnham in the early 18th Century and washed round the church. Over the porch is seen the Abbot's mitre and stole, the letters "R.B.", and on the church itself are initials and "sign manual"—two earthen beer jugs. It is difficult to say whether the church was dedicated to Benedict or Benigmis, who came with St. Patrick and was buried on the spot. The first description calls the church that of St. Ben.. An earlier church doubtless stood there. The south aisle was added in 1886, and everything has been done to preserve the original character of the place.

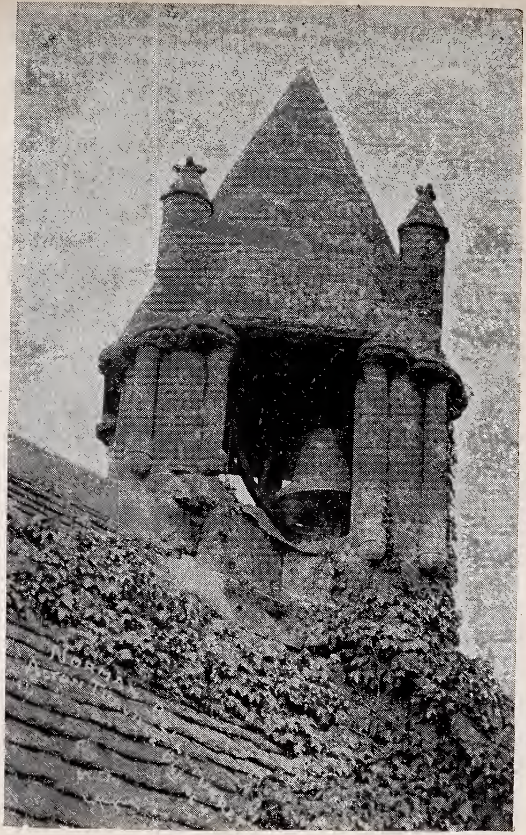
The Museum was next inspected, and afterwards tea was partaken of at "Ye Old Pilgrimmes" Inn; Bath being reached at 7 o'clock.

ACTON TURVILLE CHURCH.



[*Copyright, Mr. Murray.*

ANCIENT FONT.



[*Dowding, Chipping Sodbury.*

NORMAN BELL TURRETT.

ACTON TURVILLE AND SHERSTON MAGNA.

Tuesday, September 14th, 1920.

For the last excursion of the season fifty-four members started from Fountain Buildings at 1.30 p.m. Rain threatened once or twice, but except for a few spots the members were favoured, as usual, with good weather.

At the picturesque Church of St. Mary, Acton Turville, the party were received by the Vicar (the Rev. J. R. Foster). In a short address he told the members that the church was very interesting and very old, dating back to the time of Edward the Confessor, which fact had been commemorated in the stained glass inserted in the ancient narrow window in the chancel. The oldest and most interesting thing in the church was the old font (late Saxon or Early Norman), which had been found used as a cattle drinking trough in a farmyard. About ten years ago it was rescued and placed outside the church. When the church was thoroughly renovated and restored under Mr. W. D. Caroe in 1912, the font was placed in its original position, replacing the more modern one then in use, and a new base made of stone quarried in the parish, which was found to be of the same material as the ancient bowl itself, which was probably quarried from the same quarry. Mr. Caroe had the base rough-hewn to match the work of the font. The early church was very small, only consisting of a nave and chancel, with a porch on the south side, but restoration had completely changed its appearance, and the windows were Early English. In 1257 the North aisle was added. The North transept was then thrown out, and practically the only original thing left beyond the font was the main chancel archway. The bell turret, which was the feature of the exterior, was very ancient (another authority says it is probably Early English, and was probably taken from the old sanctuary in the centre of the village and erected in place of the old low tower). Mr. Foster drew attention to the handsome new oak pulpit and stalls, the stained glass windows, the fine pewter jug given by the Duchess of Beaufort for use at the font, and the quaint mixing of styles in the porch, the Norman archway having two niches with canopies over, of much later date.

The Rev. A. Leslie (Rector) acted as guide at Sherston Magna. In an account of the very beautiful church he said that outside the porch was still preserved a very ancient figure attributed by very ancient local tradition to a local hero, John Rattlebone, who is said to have performed prodigies of valour at the Battle of Sherston, 1016, between

Canute and Edmund Ironside, which was an indecisive action. The tradition is that the right hand, which is lost, brandished a sword, and the left hand is applying a tile stone to a wound —he is supposed to have picked up a tile stone to staunch a wound, and gone on fighting. The figure is certainly very ancient, and probably stood originally in a niche over a Saxon or Norman doorway. It has been pronounced by great authorities as certainly earlier than 1100, but there can be little doubt that the figure is that of an ecclesiastic, the right hand being raised in an act of benediction, and the left hand holding a book of the Gospels. The church was originally built in the form of a cross (it is dedicated to St. Cross), and the Rev. C. S. Taylor suggests in the "Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society," "As the Christian soldiers of St. Olaf in Norway called themselves 'Cross-men,' and the battle-cry of the English at Hastings was 'Holy Cross,' and moreover, as William of Malmesbury tells us that Canute built churches in all places where he had fought, it is quite possible that the church is one of Canute's battle churches." Except the figure, nothing remains of the Saxon church, but it existed in the time of Edward the Confessor, and is mentioned in Domesday Book. Between 1160 and 1170 it was replaced by a Norman church, its plan being doubtless influenced by the form of the earlier church. The nave had four bays, and retains its fine Norman arcading on the north side. The font is Norman. Between 1230 and 1240 the central tower, chancel and north transept were added, and the old Norman north aisle replaced. The original Norman eaves corbel table still remains on the south wall, and runs right through the parvise. The fine arches under the tower, of the purest style of Early English, remain, and the rest of the Early English work also remains, except that some of the windows were replaced by Perpendicular. The south aisle was probably three chapels, with a Norman arch in the nave, Early English at the transept crossing and late Perpendicular in the chancel. Late in the 15th Century an unusual processional passage was opened from the chancel to the Lady chapel (north transept). One of the Early English lancet windows remains, and the stairway which led from the nave to the Rood loft (carried right across the north aisle) is still in situ. Other interesting features pointed out were the old candle sconces, still in use on the choir stalls, and corbel heads of the tower arches, five of which are ancient, include Henry III., Queen Eleanor of Provence, Richard, Earl of Cornwall (the King's brother), a fourth, said to be Simon de Montfort, who was High Steward with care of the Royal Manors, of which Sherston was one, and a widow which it is suggested may be Ela, Countess of Salisbury, whose benediction as prioress of her own foundation, Lacock Abbey, is recorded in Sarum Charters as taking place in Sherston Church in 1239, at the very period of the rebuilding of this chancel.

Afterwards the members went to see the ruins of the old parsonage house, the entrenchments, the base of the village cross (now in the Rectory garden), and the old sculptured stones built into the Rectory wall.

Tea was served in the Rifle Range Barn, the Rector having made all the arrangements, and Colonel H. P. P. Leigh, on behalf of the Society, warmly thanked Mr. and Mrs. Leslie for their kindness and all the trouble they had taken.

After an enjoyable return drive via Dyrham, Bath was reached at 7 o'clock.

LECTURES, 1920.

The first lecture of the year, attended by a crowded audience, was given at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Saturday, March 6th, at 3 o'clock, by Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A., on the discovery of the Loretto Chapel, Glastonbury Abbey.

The Chair was to have been taken by Colonel Hendley Kirkwood, and Colonel E. Clayton, who presided, made fitting reference to the sad demise of Colonel Kirkwood, whose death was, he said, a very great loss, not only to the Somerset Archæological Society, but to Bath in all directions, and also to the county of Somerset. His loss was very sad to him personally, because they were very old friends, and were quartered together in Dover just before each of them retired from the Army. It was with very much regret that he had to make that announcement.

Prefacing his address, Mr. Bligh Bond said he much regretted that there were no slides to illustrate those portions of Glastonbury Abbey with which his remarks would deal. The subject, however, did not at present lend itself to the making of lantern slides, because the Chapel of the Loretto had only recently been excavated and no complete photographs had yet been possible. They would have to wait until the next season's digging was over. He desired to interest his hearers in the Abbey building generally, in order to give them a better idea of what it was for which search had been made and how much had been found. They could not fail to be interested in some of the salient features. The Abbey was on one of the most ancient sacred sites in the country. In early years it had great repute to antiquity and for its sacred nature, and was spoken of at that time as the English Jerusalem. In one of the early church councils the claim was put forward that Joseph of Arimathea had come there as the first Christian missionary. There was, the lecturer observed, no reason why they should not believe that Joseph of Aramathea had come over to England in the manner described, as there was then a great deal of trade between the Mediterranean and these islands. They now knew that the old Druidical teaching was a grafting of some sort from an Eastern religion.

The original church, a rude and primitive structure, stood on the spot where St. Joseph's Chapel now stands, in the west of the Abbey. This chapel is in reality "St. Mary's," being dedicated to the Virgin Mary, but is popularly known as St. Joseph's as it represents his foundation. In the time of St. Dunstan the great order of Benedictines established their House at Glastonbury. There had previously been many monks and hermits at Glastonbury who had built several small churches or oratories. When the Benedictines came everything was reformed, and it was supposed that a great church had been built on the spot. Certainly we have the record of one built by King Ina, and Dunstan may have used this. Probably a large amount of damage was done by the Danes, and subsequently a Norman abbot was given charge of Glastonbury in the time of the Conqueror. He did not get on well with his monks, and was sent back to Normandy. In 1184 a great fire occurred, in which the old wooden church was destroyed, with the exception of a few minor buildings. The monks, having reconstructed the Romanesque chapel, went on to build their own church some little distance to the west of St. Joseph's Chapel. In the 14th Century there was some dim record of a lady chapel having been built at the extreme east end of their church. The Abbot Monnington, a great builder, extended the choir in the 14th Century, and he built a new retro-choir. The lecturer described the reasons for the building of a Galilee porch between the end of the great church and St. Mary's Chapel, in the time of King Henry III. That porch became unnecessary, and was converted into a choir to the chapel at the west, the two buildings being thus, as it were, united in length, their joint total being about 500 feet from end to end.

Since 1908 excavations had been made which had revealed the plan of the cloisters, the chapter-house, and the refrectory, shewing these to be in accordance with the regular Benedictine system of building. The church was restored somewhat in the times of Edward VI. and Queen Mary, when a company of Flemish weavers were allowed the use of the church, but in the time of Queen Elizabeth the whole of the glorious building went to pieces. The lead, it is said, was taken from the roof for the purpose of lining the roofs of the castle in Jersey Harbour. The church was not only allowed to fall into decay, but large portions of the stone were taken also for local building purposes. For 200 years the building was simply a stone quarry for the whole neighbourhood. That went on to the beginning of the 19th Century, and it was a matter for surprise that anything of the Abbey was now remaining.

Coming now to the question of the actual site of the Loretto Chapel, the lecturer said that somewhat indefinite indications were found in old manuscripts as to the existence of such a chapel,* and in 1904 excavations were made by Sir William Hope, under the Archæological Institute, but were unsuccessful. In 1908 the lecturer had an opportunity of digging and came upon the Edgar Chapel, which Sir William Hope had failed to discover. In his search for the Loretto Chapel the lecturer said he had come upon a platform of masonry 12ft. 6in. wide, in the corner between the north transept and the north wall, on the outside of the building. At the time he could find no explanation of it, and the quest for the Loretto Chapel was given up in 1911, but five years later a constructive explanation suggested itself, and he thought the great piece of masonry had been placed to support a flying buttress to strengthen the central tower. In August last he was able to make further research, and on the first day of digging the corner of a wall had been found in an adjoining bank. In two days they had worked out the whole of one corner of the building, which was later found to measure 20ft. in total width. To make the discovery, the method he had adopted was to work from a cultivation of the intuitive powers as well as intuition from logical reasoning, but he felt that in work of that kind unless the intuitive faculty was used in conjunction with the reason, the best results could not be obtained. (Applause).

Asked to enlarge upon the actual inspiration which led to the discovery of the Loretto Chapel, the lecturer said the working of the mind was a thing he had always studied very earnestly. One sometimes came to conclusions which did not always emerge in evidence. At times they did, however, and it was then that a flash of intuition came. After thinking out some problem and then letting it go out of the mind, in order to get complete rest, then, quite unbidden, the idea would come of its own accord. It had been found that the mind might be a much larger thing than one had knowledge of. That larger mind was always actively engaged in balancing facts and trying to force them into ordinary consciousness. If they were able to turn their minds and put all intellectual pride aside, feeling themselves to be a channel of thought rather than a reservoir, then hidden truths were apt to make themselves known. In that particular case he (the lecturer) had adopted a method which a good many people thought eccentric. He had told his hearers the story plainly, and they would be able to judge how successful he had been. If they judged the results to be more than actual previous knowledge would warrant, they would be justified in thinking that there was something more than the logical power of the mind could give.

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* See report by F. Bligh Bond in the Vol. of Proceedings (LXV.) of the *Som. Arch. Soc.* for 1919.

Replying to still further inquiry, the lecturer said the results had come through what was known as automatic writing, and he did not think they would have been obtained had not both his friend and he studied the question closely. The intuitive impressions had emerged in a form of which they had been themselves unconscious, and they only emerged after long and close intellectual study. There had not been a trace of inference to be found in any known record as to the actual site of the Loretto Chapel, which was only described by Leland as joining to the north side of the body of the church, but when they came to excavate for the Loretto Chapel, they found it within six inches of the place where they had been led to believe it was. He thought the method was one worth attention, and he desired that brother antiquaries should give it their consideration and say whether some such method was not worth following. He did not ask them to do automatic writing, but in his own case it had served the purpose. There was, he thought, a Race Memory common to all. Their ancestors lived in them, and they inherited characteristics from those ancestors. That being the case why should there not be a Race Memory ?

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the meeting to the lecturer at the conclusion.

"FROM NORMAN TO PERPENDICULAR."

The following lecture, illustrated by numerous excellent slides, by the Rev. Ethelbert Horne, entitled " From Norman to Perpendicular : A Description of the Restoration of Somerset Churches in the 15th Century," was given at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Thursday, April 15th, at 3 o'clock. Colonel Clayton in the Chair.

The Lecturer said :—

I find it difficult to know quite where to begin. My object is to describe to you the manner in which our forefathers set about restoring our ordinary parish churches in this county at any time from 1350 until church building came to an end at the Reformation. But during the time I mention there will have been churches of several styles that will have needed mending, and I am confining myself to those of one style only. Let me put it in this way : The earliest kind of church style that we know of in this country, is the Saxon. We have not far from us, at Bradford-on-Avon, one of the most perfect examples that exists, and we may be more or less familiar with its appearance. When the Norman Conquest took place, this kind of building came to an end. In its place we have that most beautiful of styles—the Norman. The building churches in this style lasted, roughly, about 100 years, and after that it went on with variations. This is what is called a "transitional period," during which time the genius of the English master-mason gradually produced that wonderful style—the Early English.

This is Norman, with all what I may call the ponderousness taken out of it, and a severe, simple, graceful building is the result. Then we find that variations set in on this, till at last we get to the Decorated period, and this after a run of 150 years or so, brings us up to what some consider the crowning glory of English architecture—the Perpendicular. Our native genius then, between the time that the Normans brought their style with them, and the ceasing of all styles in the great destruction of the 16th Century, produced two distinct forms in church building—the Early English and the Perpendicular.

Churches wear out, as do other things, and in the life of a building, must come a day, when it won't go on any longer unless it is mended. Then a problem will present itself to the minds of those who take the mending in hand. Shall we pull the old building down to its foundations and start fresh in a style which is more up-to-date, or shall we merely re-model the old building on modern lines? Lovers of the past will, of course, wish that as much of the old as possible shall be preserved and the minimum of destruction be accomplished. I am not sure, when I look back at the Somerset churches, whose restoration we are going to consider, that I see any trace of this latter spirit, but I do think we can see plenty of instances of the restorer (if that is his right name) going straight for the poor old place and treating it with reckless cruelty. Of course, I might, if we extended this enquiry beyond the villages of Somerset, prove this charge very fully, by reference to some of our cathedrals—Winchester, for instance—but I am confining this enquiry strictly to our country parish churches, where things would be done on a small and homely scale.

I would like to say a word here about church restorations in general. I have wandered all through this great county and I have visited every pre-Reformation church in it. I would put the number, very roughly, at about 450. I have seen churches that have not been restored at all and that badly needed mending; I have seen some that have been so beautifully mended that you cannot see the patch or the darn, and every detail of the old work is most carefully preserved and every object of interest is left intact and guarded from further decay; and I have gone into buildings that have been so-called "restored" by being stripped naked, everything that told of the past being ruthlessly pulled out, every vestige of antiquity destroyed. The walls are plastered flat and coloured dingy yellow, the windows glazed with common glass, letting in a vulgar glare of light. Varnished rows of pitch-pine benches shine up each side of the aisle and look like teeth in a steel trap, and the floor has been lowered as a means of raising the chancel, and the bones of the long-sleeping dead that were disturbed in the process were shovelled altogether into a hole in the churchyard outside. This is not restoration, it is destruction,—it is desecration.

The restorers of the 14th and 15th Centuries often destroyed, as we shall see, but I think there is plenty of evidence that they were careful not to desecrate. Everything in the church that had had any close relation to religion as such, they carefully preserved—anything that was merely architectural they treated as they liked.

Before we begin to speak in detail of the decay of a building, it might be as well to say something of the original builder. Mr. Hamilton Thompson in his "Historical Growth of the English Parish Church," which is one of that excellent series of "Cambridge Manuals of Science and Literature," says (p. 15):—"the builders were generally, it may be assumed, local masons. . . . . The splendid development of many twelfth century parish churches, is no argument against their local origin. Architectural enthusiasm in the Middle Ages was a possession of the people generally: and was not confined to a limited and privileged body. The large monastery or cathedral churches in every neighbourhood were sources of inspiration to the builders of the parish churches: . . . . Here and there, perhaps, a mason who had taken part in the building of one of the greater churches, would be called into consultation for the design of a parish church: . . . . . It should be noted that in the Middle Ages the builder was not a mere instrument to carry out the designs of an architect. He himself, the master mason of the work, was the architect. His training lay, not in the draughtsmanship of an architect's office, but in practical working with mallet and chisel. Thus, during at any rate, the earlier part of the Middle Ages, design was in so small degree a matter of instinct. Architecture was a popular, democratic art, in which the instinctive faculties became trained to a high pitch. The individual mason was allowed free play for his talent, and the result was that constant variety of design and detail, that continual movement and progress . . . . which are the eternal attraction of mediæval architecture."

This seems to me a very true description of the builders of our parish churches in the Middle Ages, and what is true of the builder, is probably true of the restorer. I should not suppose that when one of the old parish churches was getting worn out, that an architect was called in, that he drew plans to show the best way to manage the contemplated restoration, and overlooked the work while it was being carried out. No, the local masons and their assistants took the job in hand, and carried it through, just as did the original builder without the help, of what to-day we should call, professional advice.

I think it is time now that we began to look at some pictures, and that we may have quite a clear idea of what we mean by Norman architecture ; let us see one or two examples. These will not be from Somerset churches but from our English cathedrals.

This is the south aisle of Hereford Cathedral. Here you see the great round heavy Norman pillars, and the semicircular arches between them. Of course, the groining of the aisle has been put in some centuries later. We might notice the font as it comes in the picture. I spoke just now of the care our forefathers took never to desecrate when they restored, or even when they destroyed. As a rule, the fonts are the oldest things in our parish churches. On account of its sacred use, the font was always held in extreme veneration, and as each succeeding change took place in the building as the centuries passed along, the font was either let alone, or its outside cut and trimmed as far as it would allow, to be in keeping with the new style of the restored church. The font here shown is a very early Norman one, or it may even have been of Saxon origin. The carving on its outside is a later addition in all probability. Even fonts which seem to be of the Decorated period, or the Perpendicular, are frequently the old tub-shaped Saxon or Norman fonts cut into hexagons and carved. I am not going to discourse on fonts now, but there is plenty of evidence, in the shape of half-finished fonts, to show how their conversion was managed throughout the ages.

This picture is from the nave of Durham and it exhibits the same round heavy pillars, and the same semi-circular arches, but with this difference,—an attempt has been made to decorate the pillars by cutting designs on their surface, and it is one of the early methods of softening Norman severity. Later again we get Norman at the height of its style, and we may see an example of it in the wonderful little Norman church at Kilpeck, in Herefordshire. Here is the chief entrance on the south side. It has no porch, but it is a mass of decoration. This is a view of the inside. We come now to that change in building, which, if not the greatest in itself which has taken place in the history of architecture, certainly proved, in the long run, the fruitful cause of the beautiful styles which followed. I refer to the change from the round arch, like those we have been looking at, to the pointed, or what we may call the Gothic arch as distinguished from the Norman. It was nothing short of a revolution in building. It must be difficult for us to put ourselves back in mind to the days when every arch was a semi-circle, and then try to understand how we should have entertained the idea of an arch that rose to a point at the top. I can quite believe that there must have been some, perhaps even many, persons, who did not know too much about the secrets of building, who did not believe that such an arch would stand up and be safe! And what a bold experiment it must have been when the first pointed arch—probably to a window—was put up, and with what curiosity it would be looked at! Now what brought the pointed arch about? I can remember being told, and I believe that the theory, at one time, was seriously held by many, that the discovery of the pointed arch was brought about by one of the methods of decorating plain wall surfaces, that the Norman builder used, in the later forms of his architecture. He put rows of small semi-circular arches overlapping one another, and the result is that you get pointed arches in between. Here is an example from the walls of Christchurch Priory, in Hampshire. It is easy to see the effect produced by these interlacing round arches. But I believe that there is little or no truth in this theory as to the origin of the pointed arch—it was something much more practical that forced its use on the later Norman builders. We must remember that stone roofs—what we call groined roofs—were very rare, if they existed at all in the earliest Norman work. Most of the roofs were open timber—massive and heavy. When later, these builders began to use stone inside, they naturally made their roof semi-circular—that is, they tried to. If you turn two half-round arches across the nave of a church, not straight across, but diagonally, it is true you get two half-circles cutting each other in the middle, but the four quarters that you have made by doing this, are not semi-circular. Now I know that this is difficult to follow, so look at this picture. It represents the stone roof of the south aisle of Peterborough Cathedral and is late Norman work. You can see that all these groin ribs are real half-circles, but the space enclosed by them at the sides, will be pointed where it runs out to and meets the side wall. Hence the builder found that he had a series of wall spaces, between each bay of his half-round groining, that ran up into points. If he put a round-topped window into each of these spaces, it would fit it very badly, and so he made his window to agree with the space it had to fill, and hence he made it pointed. I dare say the beauty of these tapering, pointed windows, high up, under the roof, struck the imagination of the builders of the day as something more elegant than the round Norman arch, and they soon began to reproduce it elsewhere, for doorways, or for the arches between the nave and aisles. Anyway, the pointed arch came to stay and it soon produced a revolution in church building.

As we all know, it was the Early English style which succeeded immediately to the Norman, and we are not concerned with this to-day. Then came the Decorated, and finally the Perpendicular,—each style growing gradually out of the last as the master masons made their fresh discoveries.

Between the date when buildings in the Norman style were the fashion and this last English style, the Perpendicular, was invented, a period of about 200 years—I put it very roughly, and only in "round numbers"—had elapsed. During those 200 years, the smaller parish churches which had been built in the former style, must have become, in many cases, badly in need of restoration. Of course many of them had been mended, or indeed, altogether rebuilt, both during the Early English and Decorated periods, but I have confined this paper simply to those churches in this county, which seem to have lived safely through these two epochs, and were not taken in hand until the Perpendicular style was a well-established method. Then they went for them, and provided the building would not fall down if they pulled out nearly every trace of Norman work, out it went, and the new style had it all its own way.

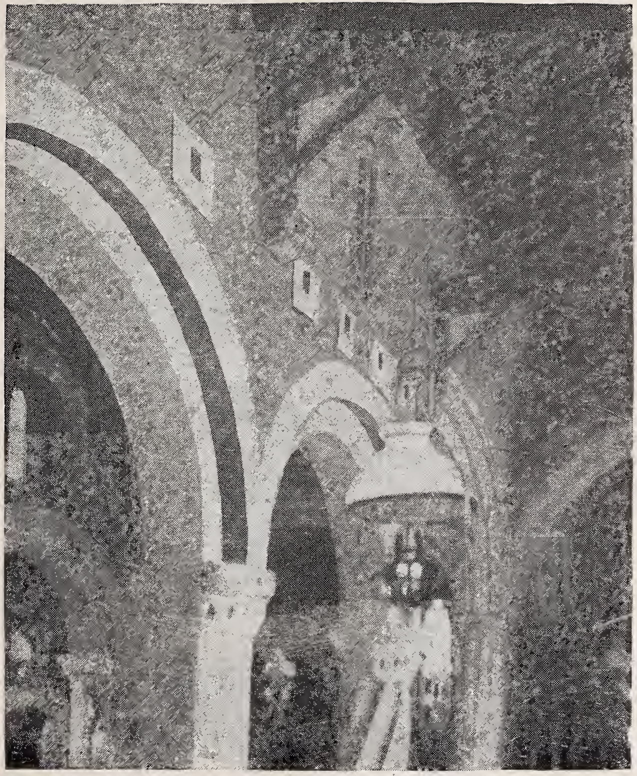
We will begin by looking at some of the simpler things that the restorers of the 15th Century did, when they restored.

The little church of Stratton-on-the-Fosse, was originally Norman. I am not sure that the curious bend on the outside wall of the chancel, on the north side, may not even be the curve of the old Norman apse, that was generally only just large enough to hold the altar, and the old font is there—so old and so simple and massive, that it might well be pre-Norman,—and much of the base of the tower is Norman work, with its deeply splayed window on the ground floor. But I want you to notice this arch. The square wall and heavy plain abacus, shows it is fairly early Norman work, and the first two "springers" of the arch, on either side, are part of the old Norman arch too, and would have made a complete half-circle, as they were originally fixed. But notice what has happened. "We must have a pointed arch here, this old-fashioned round arch must be changed" said the master mason. So he proceeded to take down all the arch, but these two springers—they were fairly harmless for his design. Then he cut the stones he had taken out, to a slightly different level, so that when they were replaced the arch would no more be semi-circular but would run up to a graceful point! The first two stones being set to make a half-circle, do not accommodate themselves very happily to the theory, and we get an ugly break. Then I am not sure that the old Norman tower did not protest against this needless restoration, and settled down a bit, and squashed the new design as near back into the old shape as he could get it. Anyhow the new arch was not a success, and the added keystone, to make up for the pieces sliced off the other stones to give them the new rising angle, is a poor clumsy thing, all out of the centre. I am half inclined to think that the "restorer" in the case of this particular church, had learned his lesson, for there is another beautiful Norman arch that he left alone! Inside the porch we have here the rather uncommon example of a late Perpendicular oak door, accommodating itself to a round Norman arch. When the new door was added, the archway was nearly always changed to fit it—not the door to fit the arch. So here we see a beginning of what may be called the tinkering with the old work. I don't really want to blame these restorers, for we have a good sound building there to-day, which we should not have had if the "Perpendiculars" had not come along to its rescue in the 15th Century.

Next, let us look at a much finer church—among the finest in the county. We cannot go inside until we have looked at the tower, which is a grand specimen, even in Somerset, where grand towers abound. A will, dated in 1541 leaves a legacy to the tower, which at that time was said to be "in building." It was probably built up half-way at some time considerably earlier than this, and then finished later. The lower part is better built than the upper.

As we enter, we notice the fine piece of ironwork—probably local work—in the form of the closing ring, for pulling the heavy door together. Inside the church the first thing that strikes you is that it is very lopsided. This is the result of a most extraordinary piece of Perpendicular tinkering! Exactly what took place at the chancel arch was this: The church was the usual Norman shape, without aisles—sinply a straight nave, and at the end of it, three Norman arches, a large one in the middle and two small ones on either side. One of these remains, at the back of the pulpit, the other was pulled out, together with the large central arch, and then in place this weak and sprawling arch was thrown across. The old wall was shaved back at a slant to give room to make the arch as wide as possible. I said earlier that however much the restorers of the time we are talking about destroyed, they seemed careful never ro desecrate, and I think here we have an example of what I mean. It seems to me, from the large number of cases that I have seen, that our forefathers attached a special importance to, and had a reverence for, what we call the chancel arch. It may be that it was the "gate of the sanctuary,"—that which led up to the altar where the great Christian Sacrifice was offered. Whatever the cause for it, I have come across numbers of cases where this arch has been most carefully preserved when all else that was Norman (except the font) has been broken up or destroyed. Come round to the north side of the church, outside. There you have this arch, now used as a doorway,—what is it? It is, I feel sure, the old chancel arch, for if you measure off a corresponding small arch to match with the one behind the pulpit, you have a space left between the two that this large large arch will exactly fill. The height, too, of the little arch, is 11 feet from the base of the cap of the pillar at the side, to the crown of the arch, and this is also exactly the height of the large arch when measured the same way. Here is a sketch of the three arches as they would have looked when in their old position. Of course, the middle arch seems to give us only a very small view of the altar, but the people of that age were used to this, and it would not have seemed stranged to them. When we were looking at the inside of Kilpeck Church, you will remember that the arches were very narrow. I am not going into all the other changes that took place in Chewton Mendip church—they are many and interesting. You may still see, for instance, part of the round, deeply-splayed Norman windows adapted to pointed arches—after a fashion—along the north wall, and there are many more conversions of the old to the new, but none so violent as that of the chancel arch.

I want to follow up these removed and preserved chancel



[*Photo, Revd. Ethelbert Horne.*

WEST AISLE, COMPTON MARTIN CHURCH.

arches, in one or two other cases. Here is the stranded little church at Holcombe, a place where all the village has gone away and is rebuilt elsewhere with a new church—the reason for which we must not go into now. The next picture shows you the arch at the entrance of the porch. The porch, as far as it has any features, is of the Perpendicular age, but this arch, built into it, is of workmanship at least 200 years earlier, and so it must have been brought from somewhere when the porch was built. You can see on the outside of the nave wall, at the east end, that there was once another chancel there, smaller but higher, than the present one. I think there is little doubt that this beautiful arch was once the chancel arch of the old Norman chancel, for it is about the right size.

If you go into the porch of Kewstoke church, the inner doorway is like this. You notice above it, part of a thicker wall than the one in which it is now set, and the stones project in an unfinished and untidy manner. That archway was not made for the door, but only adapted to it, and it came from somewhere else. Of course I cannot say for certain that it was once the chancel arch, but I think it very probable.

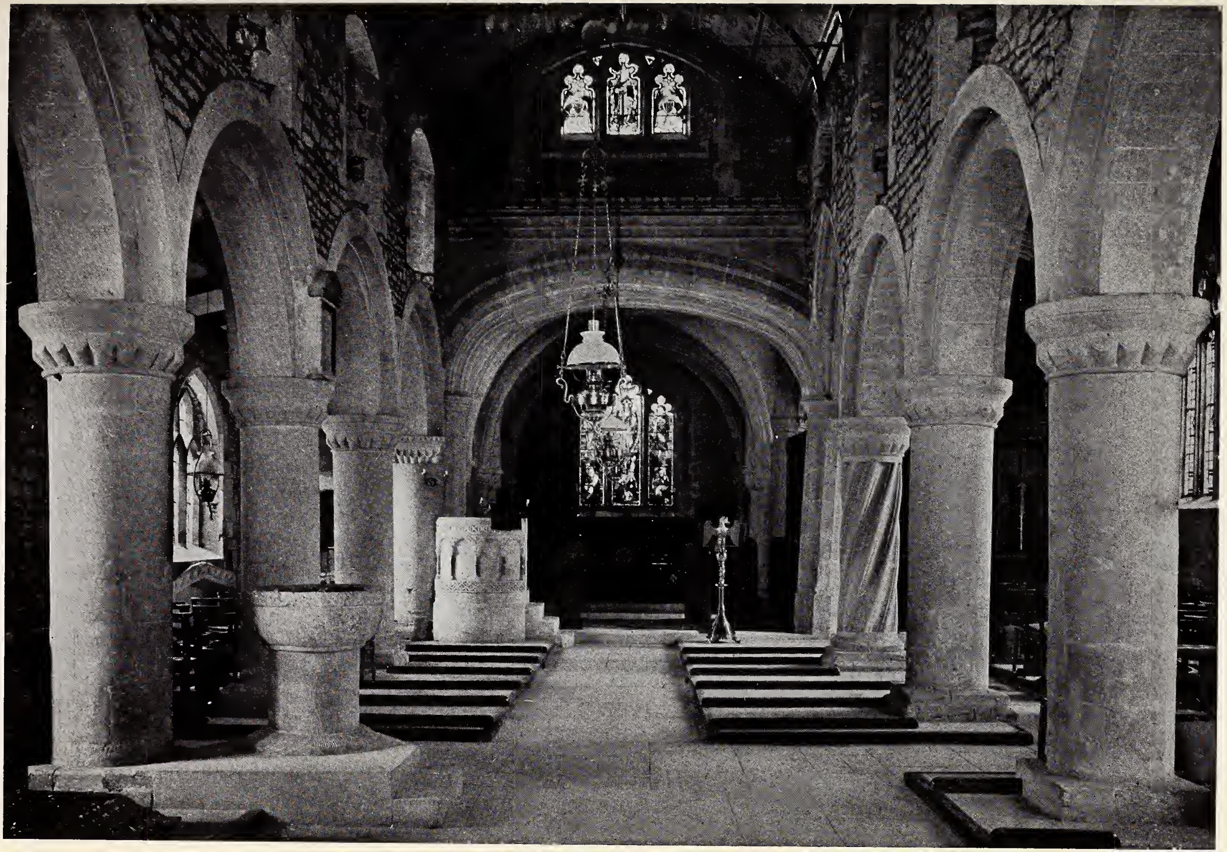
At Queen Charlton, by the road side, is an archway, not made for a gateway for there is nowhere for the gate to fit. It is said to have been brought from Keynsham and to have been "originally the gateway of the Abbey court-house," and it has always seemed to me that there must have been some good reason for its removal to such a distance, for it is not a great piece of workmanship, although it is quite a nice example of simple Norman work. On the north side of Lullington church, is this very beautiful arch, made to do duty as a doorway. The church has a central tower, cutting the nave off from the chancel. The archway at the end of the nave leading under the tower, is a beautiful specimen of decorated Norman—half round, of course. The corresponding arch, leading into the chancel, is a pointed one, so you have one of each. I think in this case we may be certain that the so-called doorway, outside the church, was once this second, or chancel arch, and the point above it is where it fitted into the groining under the old Norman tower. The figure of our Lord in Glory would have faced the people, and such a device is common over sanctuary arches.

We cannot leave this wonderful little church without looking at its Norman font—a font so beautiful that the "Perpendiculars" spared it, and did not trim it into a hexagon and cut tracery on the sides.

I come now to the last church I am going to deal with—Compton Martin—a church which shows us better than any other I have seen, the methods of the 15th Century restorers. This is a picture of the outside.

I want you to notice that the roof over this south aisle, and this wall are part of the 15th Century addition. The church originally was late Norman in style and consisted of a nave and two side aisles—a rather uncommon shape in a small church. These side aisles had a low roof, as you can see in this view taken on the other side. Above the roof of the aisle, is a row of clerestory windows—again an unusual thing in a church of this kind. The chancel had a stone groined roof, which is more unusual still, and it would have had a chancel arch of some kind, which in this case seems to have disappeared altogether. The tower, as you saw, was at the west end and was originally of Norman design.

The first part of the building which the restorers attacked—for we can trace the order of their work fairly well—was the arch at the end of the nave, entering into the tower. This they pulled out entirely and built a high pointed arch, as high almost as the roof of the church. They decorated the sides of this arch with panel work of the usual Perpendicular pattern, and a very handsome arch they have made of it. I have no doubt that the tower was added to and changed at the same time. So far their restoration was a success, and then they evidently thought that they would go a step farther. I think the round Norman chancel arch was next removed and an attempt made to replace it with a low pointed arch, or at least to raise it as much as the groining at the back would allow. Whether the arch was made with both curves the same on the two sides, or whether it got squashed out of shape by the accident I am just going to speak of, it is difficult to tell, but you see the shape it is now. The next step was a bold one. The pillars and arches down each side of the nave were good simple Norman, but as this was sadly out of fashion it was decided that these arches should be pointed. But there was no room beneath the clerestory window, in which to carry up the point, so they resorted to the extraordinary devise of carrying the point right up into the little window overhead. Well they did it with the first arch on the right, and then the building began to topple over! This heavy Norman pillar, which they had shaved down into a hexagon was not strong enough to take the thrust of the new chancel arch, and the new pointed arch, and it lent over dangerously. It was this pillar going over that spoilt the chancel arch's shape, and it showed at once that the church was not built in a manner that was strong enough to have so much of its vital parts cut out and live. And so they threw up the whole



thing and left the church half-restored and telling its own tale to-day. You go into the south aisle and look up at the roof and there you see the row of Norman clerestory windows inside the church, all perfect, except the one nearest the chancel, which has the point of the nave arch sticking into the middle of it. The restorers never even finished this off, and made good the little ruined window, but it is all left in the rough, just as they pulled the stones out. Even the holes in the wall, where the rafters of the old aisle roof had entered, are left as they were the day the timbers were taken out of them. It almost looks as if there had been a row! The parishioners had employed a master mason to restore their old church, he got on well with it up to a certain point, then he tried to do too much, and rather than the old place should fall down all together, they drove him off, or paid him off, and there stands his work to-day, half done!

I am afraid much of what I have said has been very technical and perhaps not of much general interest, but as societies like yours so frequently visit our old parish churches it may not be without its use to dwell a little on the ways by which they came into their present shape, so that we may read the story from the walls for ourselves, as we examine these old buildings.

Colonel Clayton proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. Ethelbert Horne for his interesting lecture. This was received with acclamation.

Compton Martin Church.

The view of the interior of the Church is reproduced from a photograph by Mr. J. Reginald H. Weaver. It shows the chancel arch and pillar, as affected by faulty restoration.

The block of the above has been kindly lent us by the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society.

The view of the south aisle is from a photograph by the Revd. Ethelbert Horne. Clerestory windows *inside.* Rafter holes of old roof showing.

THE CITÉ OF CARCASSONNE.

An overflowing and appreciative audience attended at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Saturday, December 4th, Captain C. T. Foxcroft, M.P., Vice-President of the Branch, in the Chair, to hear a lecture by Mr. C. H. Bothamley on "The Cité of Carcassonne," a frontier fortress of mediæval France, which was illustrated by a large number of excellent slides.

Captain C. T. Foxcroft, M.P., introducing the speaker, said he was sure that if they looked on Mr. Bothamley as one of the soulless representatives of the Board of Education they would receive a pleasant surprise. He was a man who loves beauty, and had a great veneration for living history. His work not only fitted people for labour but for the right employment of their leisure moments and for the duties of citizenship.

Mr. Bothamley commenced by saying that Carcassonne was of exceptional interest, because it had been a fortress from primitive times, and showed traces of each succeeding age during which it was manned, while it had played a considerable part in the history of France. Much of the fortress was in remarkably good preservation and much had been restored by Viollet-le-duc. Standing near the Pyrenees on the spot where the river Ande turns almost to right angles, it dominates the surrounding country in a way unequalled by any similar place. Carcassonne also commanded the main highway from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic and stood sentinel over it. More than half the area on which it stood had a very steep slope to the river, while on the other side the ground on which it stood was cut off from the main promontory by a small natural valley, beyond which the land again slopes upward. Its history was briefly as follows :— Almost certainly there had been a Gaulish fortress on this spot, and in the time of the early Roman occupation it was a city, though later it became a mere camp. In the middle of the 5th Century the surrounding country was overrun by the Visigoths, who held the fortress from 435 to 725. Much of their work remains, built in the later Roman manner. Eventually it became part of the estate of the first Simon de Montfort, and was finally ceded to the kingdom of France, being for many years the great frontier fortress against Spain.

A lantern slide plan of Carcassonne was now shown, which the lecturer explained to the audience. He pointed out the inner and outer walls, which made a double line of defence, much of the latter being work of the middle 13th Century, under Louis IX. Of the inner wall, a great deal was Visigoth, while part was constructed by Louis' son, Philip the Bold, in the late 13th Century. Many of the Visigoth towers were built on Roman foundations and were very narrow considering their height. The walls were not simply walls, for the ground level inside was much higher than outside ; they were really a reinforcement of the ground. These walls were, in places, considerably battered, partly by successive sieges and partly owing to the fact that until protected, they had for many years been used as a quarry by the neighbouring peasants. A feature of the whole circuit was the way the towers on the inner wall commanded and supported the outer, in case of an attack. An important part of the fortress was the great tower, built on the south side, at the weakest spot of all, for here the ground was of much the same level inside and out, and the enemy might be able to bring their artillery into position. This tower compared with all but the largest of the round towers built in mediæval times. When the cité fell into disrepair, the space between the two walls was converted into a street, with houses built upon the walls, but in recent years they had been taken down. At the foot of one of the towers there was a small door which led to an underground chamber, where a small body of men could be collected to make a sortie against the attacking force. The south-east angle tower referred to above was built to stand a separate siege ; it could be cut off from the remainder of the fortress, and was so constructed that it could carry on a separate existence. In it loopholes were cut for shooting arrows and there were later openings for the discharge of small cannon.

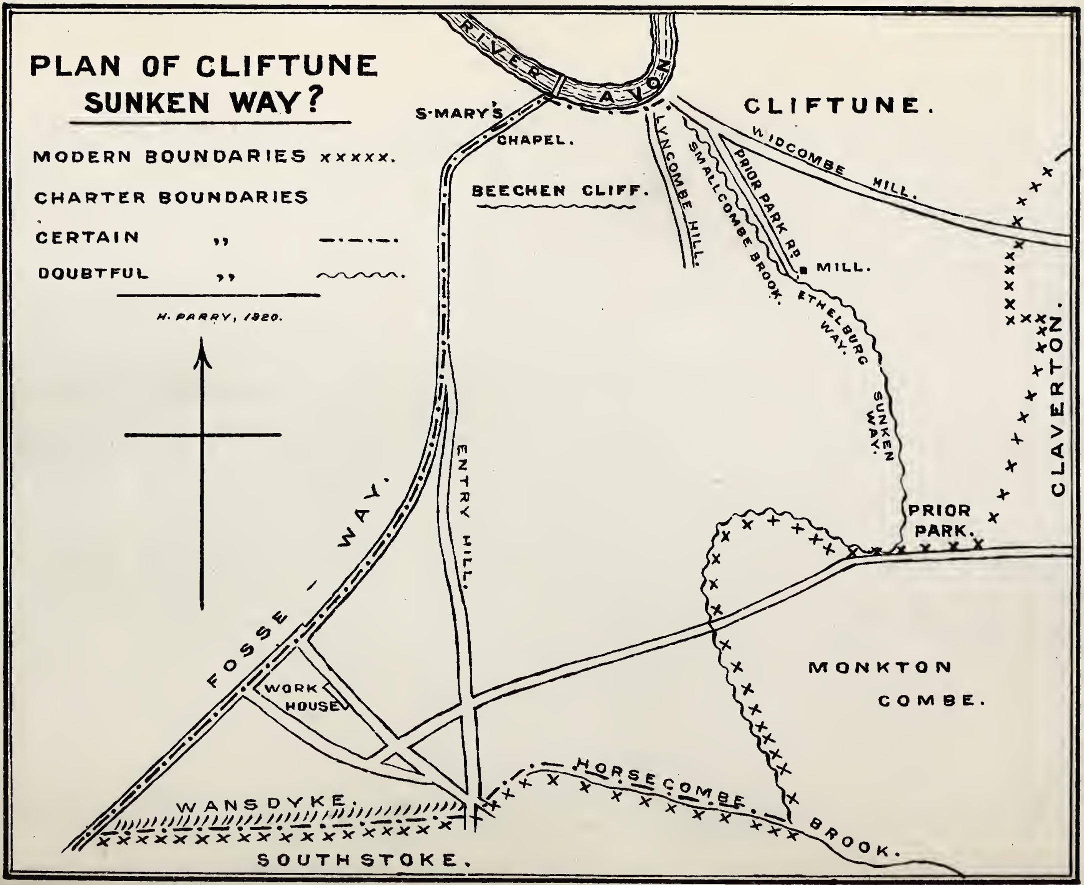
In one place a stratum of the inner wall was composed of an older wall, now lying on its side, In some early siege, possibly against the Arabs, it had fallen, but being too hard to remove, had had the new wall built above it. There was considerable difficulty to an attacking force trying to enter the towers, whose entrances were constructed mainly to prevent the enemy's penetration. Some were only accessible by a wooden bridge, which could in cases of necessity be removed, thus isolating each one. Those of the 13th Century differed from the Visigothic, in that they were nowhere solid, but had chambers right down to the ground where men could be brought together for an attack. In the most vulnerable part of the tower, that is the most forward point of the curve, a kind of projecting beak was built, keeping the enemy back, and exposing them to the fire of the defenders. Many towers had in them openings, protected by swinging iron shutters, so that the bowmen could lean forward, fire an arrow, and retreat under cover. That known as "The Bishop's Tower," though the name was probably a misnomer, was common to both lines of defence, since at that point the walls were very close together. There was only one main entrance, "The Narbonne Gate." This was defended by a movable bridge and some sort of building in front, which had first to be captured before the bridge could be reached. The passages were all built with a bend in them, forcing the attackers to expose their undefended side to the bowmen. A sheaf of arrows stood ever handy by the gate, and huge blocks of stone and parts of trees were kept in special rooms built over the gateway, for which an opening 6ft. square was left, that they might be dropped on the enemy should he reach the entrance. A strong portcullis was suspended, and a short way within the fortress was a second door, so that should men ever penetrate beyond the first they might be trapped between the two. The only fortress entrances more complex defences were those of some of the Welsh castles built by Edward I.

In Carcassonne stood a great well, 100 feet deep and 10 feet wide, with iron pulleys for drawing water. The Cathedral within the second wall was begun at the end if the 11th Century, but was mainly 12th Century work. Part of the church was also part of the fortifications. In the choir could be seen some of the finest Gothic work in existence, and there was also some beautiful 13th Century glass. Standing along the West front of the fortress was the castle, the last means of defence. Near the top of the towers and walls could be seen square openings. These were for placing beams through, on which were put projecting galleries, the better to attack men at the foot of the tower, as missiles could be dropped on to them. Originally built of wood, these galleries were in later buildings, made of stone. So strong was Carcassonne when completed that it was never afterwards captured by assault. The Black Prince ravaged much of the countryside, but did not attempt to attack the fortress itself. One of the most picturesque places, Carcassonne was a great treasure both to the student of history and especially to those interested in military architecture. It was a great thing that it should now be under the good protection of the French Government.

Captain C. T. Foxcroft, M.P., said he found it extremely difficult to say all he would wish in praise of such a fine lecture and such fine slides. They had had a history of France, written in beautiful stone. The lecture was of especial interest to Bath, because it was a contemporary town. One point which interested him very much, and which he was sure interested all those who served in the war, was to see that the French had always been great fortress builders, even though the missiles used then were rather different from the 19-inch guns and 75m.m's at Verdun.

Mr. C. H. Bothamley, returning thanks, added that Carcassonne was associated with Edward I., who went to join a crusade with Louis IX., the last in which Louis IX. took part, and after the death of the latter Edward took his place as the first man in Western Europe.

Throughout the lecture was illustrated with magnificent lantern slides.



PLAN OF CLIFTUNE
SUNKEN WAY?

MODERN BOUNDARIES xxxxx.
CHARTER BOUNDARIES
CERTAIN ,, —·—·—.
DOUBTFUL ,, 〰.
H. PARRY, 1920.
RIVER AVON
S·MARY'S CHAPEL.
BEECHEN CLIFF.
CLIFTUNE.
LYNCOMBE HILL.
SMALLCOMBE BROOK.
PRIOR PARK RD.
WIDCOMBE HILL.
MILL.
ETHELBURG WAY.
SUNKEN WAY.
PRIOR PARK.
CLAVERTON.
FOSSE WAY.
ENTRY HILL.
WORK HOUSE
MONKTON COMBE.
HORSECOMBE BROOK.
WANSDYKE.
SOUTH STOKE.

NOTES.

LYNCOMBE, A.D. 970,

By H. Parry.

Among the Bath Abbey Charters is one of considerable topographical importance, which so far seems to have escaped the notice of those who are interested in such matters. The charter* is headed " De Cumtona," and purports to be a grant by King Edgar to Bath Abbey of lands at " Cliftune " in exchange for lands at " Cumtune," and the boundaries of the land so granted are given in Anglo-Saxon. The date is A.D. 970.

The Editor's note on " Cliftune " merely says " apparently Clifton, near Bristol." The boundaries, however, completely negative this suggestion, as the very first sentence says that the River Avon bounds it on the north, which cannot possibly apply to that place.

A further examination of the boundaries shows that the land comprises in the grant, described as 10 cassates in the body of the deed and 10 hides in the boundaries, is in reality the manor of Lyncome described in the Doomsday Book as belonging to the Church of Bath, where it is said to be assessed at 10 hides and to contain two mills.

The original charter is not in existence and the Cartularlie in which it appears is a 14th Century compilation, so the question arises whether the word Cliftune is an error of the copyist, or whether the estate was at that time really called Cliftune. The first supposition is unlikely as the word occurs twice, once in the body of the charter and once in the boundaries. The second supposition is more probable, as within the lands granted, the cliff now called Beechen Cliff must have been then as now, a prominent feature in the landscape, and most likely there was a hamlet underneath it where the church of St. Mary Magdalen now stands. A church was in existence there about 100 years after the date of this grant and presumably a settlement, for which Cliftune would have been a very appropriate name, was there at an even earlier date.

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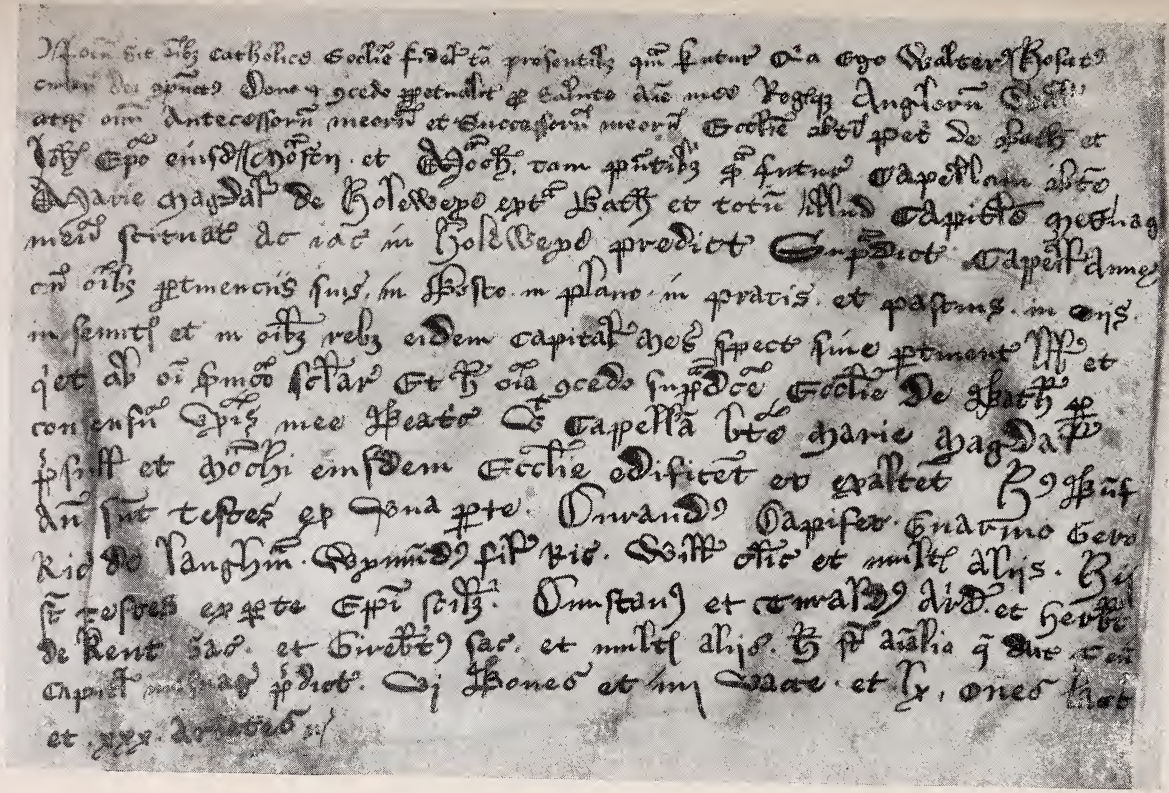
* Two Bath Cartutaries, p. 29, S.R.S.

The boundaries (divided into paragraphs for convenience) are as follows :—

1.—This synt thara x hida land gemaere to Cliftune.	1.—These are the boundaries of the ten hides at Clifton.
2.—Aerest afene stream healt thone north ende. Of afene upp.	2.—First the River Avon bounds it on the north end. From the Avon up.
3.—on smalancumbes broc.	3.—to Smallacombe brook.
4.—Thon on aethelburge weg.	4.—Then to the aethelburge way.
5.—Thon up on holan weg. Thon of holan weg.	5.—Then up on the sunken way. Then from the sunken way.
6.—suth on ecge.	6.—south to the edge (ridge).
7.—on Higelaces get.	7.—to higelaces gate.
8.—Thon on tunnes treow.	8.—then to the town's tree (? gallows).
9.—Thon on aerning-hyrste.	9.—then to the aerning wood.
10.—on tha hege raewe.	10.—to the hedge row.
11.—on horsecumbes broc, and lang broces.	11.—to the Horsecombe brook, and along the brook.
12.—upp in horsecumbes heafod.	12.—up to the head of the horsecombe valley.
13.—Thon suth rihte on wodnes dic. of wodnes dic.	13.—then south straight to the Wansdyke from the Wansdyke.
14.—on fosse streat.	14.—to the Fosse Street
15.—and lang aren (—afene)	15.—and along the Avon.
16.—upp ejt on smalancumbes broc.	16.—up (stream) back to Smalacumbe brook.

The first step is easy, the River Avon on the north is a certainty, but what is the Smallacombe brook ? There is not at present anything in the nature of a brook running down Smallcombe Vale, whatever there may have been 950 years ago. Possibly it is the stream that runs down by Prior Park Road, and at one time turned Upper Widcombe Mill (now disused), and possibly another lower down. From No. 4 to No. 10 the marks are all obscure, and some are unintelligible, but Horsecombe Brook, the Wansdyke, and the Fosse are well known, and it is clear that the land granted is an area such as is shown in the accompanying map, of which the northern, western and southern boundaries are certain, and the eastern boundary doubtful. Possibly the obscurities may be cleared up by someone possessing considerable local knowledge; but enough is clear to make it beyond doubt that this grant of Clifton is the means by which the Abbey became possessed of its Lyncombe property, and that Clifton was the earlier name of it.



Deed about 1090. ST. MARY MAGDALENE, HOLLOWAY, BATH.

ST. MARY MAGDALENE, HOLLOWAY, BATH,

By Thos. S. Bush.

The document on the opposite page is a reproduction (slightly reduced in size to suit the page) of a deed in possession of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. It is a 15th Century copy of the original. There is no date, but the grant must have been made about A.D. 1090. William II. (1087–1100), John (de Villula) Bishop of Somerset(1088), of Bath (1090). With the kind consent of the College Librarian, Sir Geoffrey Butler, I had it rotographed (simpler than a photograph). For the following translation I have to thank Mr. W. K. Boyd, who has many times helped me in similar matters.

Translation.

Be it known to all the faithful of the Catholic Church as well present as future that I Walter Hussey, touched with the fear of God, do give and grant for ever, for the salvation of my soul and of William King of the English and of all my ancestors and successors to the Church of the Blessed Peter of Bath and to John, Bishop of the same Monastery, and to the Monks as well present as future, the Chapel of the Blessed Mary Magdalen of Holeweye outside Bath and all that my capital messuage situate and lying in Holeweye aforesaid. I annex the abovesaid Chapel with all its appurtenances in wood, in plain, in meadows and feedings, in ways, in paths and in all things to the same capital messuage belonging or appertaining free and quit from all secular service. And all these things I do grant to the abovesaid Church of Bath with the consent of my wife Beatrice that the Bishop and Monks of the same church may raise and exalt the Chapel of the Blessed Mary Magdalen. And of this benefaction the witnesses are on the one part Durand the Steward, Warin Gero, Richard de Langham, Wymund son of Richard, William the clerk, and many others. These are witnesses on the part of the Bishop, to wit, Dunstan and Turald, Archdeacons, and Herbert de Kent the Priest, and Girebert the Priest, and many others. These are the beasts which are given with the capital messuage aforesaid—6 oxen, 4 cows, 60 milch sheep and 30 rams.

Translation. The Abbot of Bath has one manor which is called Lincoma. This was assessed at 10 hides at the time of King Edward (the Confessor) . . . . of these Walter Hosat now holds one hide of the Abbot and the remainder belongs to the Abbey. (Bath Abbey Charters, C.C.C.C., No. 73, Somt. R.S.).

Here we have an Abbot, in a few years Priors, and so continued until the Dissolution in 1535. The change came when Bishop John de Villula obtained a grant of the Monastery in 1088, confirmed in 1090, and removed the See from Wells to Bath. (C.C.C.C., No. 37).

Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, in his will, 1212, gave the lepers' house without Bath, 3 marks and appoints Jocelin, Bishop of Bath, and Helias de Derham his executors. (Wells Chapter M.S., Vol. I., p. 431–2).

This Hugh, son of Edward de Wells and brother of Jocelin, Bishop of Bath, was Archdeacon of Wells and Bishop of Loncoln 1209–1235.

At Ivelcestre in a month of Easter (1263) between Brothers Nicholas, Master of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen of Holewey outside Bath, querent and Peter de Norton and Isolda his wife, deforciants. . . . . The Master received Peter and Isolda and the heirs of Isolda into all future benefits and orisons in his house and in his church. (Somt. Fines, p. 197, Somt. R.S.).

Abbey Charters. L.I.M.S., 345. Grant by John Wyssy to the Master of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen of Hollowia without the City of Bath, and to the brothers and sisters there serving God, of all his land of Berewyk, etc., for the souls of said John of Geoffrey his father Matilda his mother and Margaret his wife, etc., etc. (No date, probably end of 13th Century).

373. Opposite the Tavern which was of John Wyssy.

377. Messuage in Stalls Street near the dwelling house of Thomas Sweyn which was formerly of John Wyssy. Note to above 345 says John Wyssy, i.e., Hesse.

Ordinance by John (Drokensford) Bishop of Bath and Wells, dated February, 1322, settling a dispute between the Convent and John Dudemerton, Vicar of St. Mary de Stall, Bath (too long to quote in full). The Vicar shall reside in Bath and find a chaplain to celebrate divine service in the chapel of Widecombe, and there to dwell. . . . The Convent to have the tithes of lambe at Lyncombe with that of wool which they used to take yearly of the sheep of the brethren of St. Mary Magdalen. (Wells Chapter M.S., Vol. 1, p. 386).

No record can be found of the building of the Chapel or the founding of the hospital. The above deed, about 1090, tells us that the former was then in existence, and a capital messuage is mentioned. Was this the hospital. Mr. Parry in his notes on Cliftun (see above), suggests that the "Town" might be at the top of Holloway, near the chapel. The question arises was there a chapel on the site in those early days, A.D. 970, if so it might be of wattle and later on built of stone. Prior Cantlow (1489–99) rebuilt the chapel, as recorded on a tablet in the porch (Collinson's History of Somerset). It is now held with St. Mark's, Lyncombe. The hospital was formerly for lepers, but for many years it has been devoted to the maintenance of imbecile children, and is so carried on, but other charities having been amalgamated with it the home has been moved to Combe Down.

A much fuller description of the Chapel and Hospital of St. Mary Magdalene, is given in a paper read by the Rev. W. Stokes Shaw in 1869 before the Bath Field Club and published in the Proceedings, Vol. II., pp. 99–110.

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH
SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

1920.

PRESIDENT:

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL WALDEGRAVE.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

CAPTAIN CHARLES T. FOXCROFT, M.P.
LORD STRACHIE.

COMMITTEE:

COLONEL E. CLAYTON (Chairman).
MAJOR-GENERAL BRADSHAW, C.B.
ST. DAVID M. KEMEYS-TYNTE, Esq.
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. P. LEIGH, C.I.E.
GEORGE NORMAN, Esq., F.S.A.I.
(Hon. Local Secretary Somerset Archæological Society).
REV. D. LEE PITCAIRN, M.A.
M. H. SCOTT, Esq. (late I.C.S.),
EDWARD SEGAR, Esq.

Ex-Officio Member of the Committee:

CHARLES TITE, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary Somerset Archæological Society.

HON. EXCURSION SECRETARY:

GERALD J. GREY, Esq.

HON. SECRETARY AND TREASURER:

THOS. S. BUSH, Esq.

LIST OF MEMBERS, 1920.

(* Are also Members of the Parent Society.)

1904 Acland Mrs. B. D., Island View, Barton-on-Sea, New Milton, Hants.
1911 *Adams E. Cay, Esq., Brentwood, Combe Down
1920 Adams C. Mercer, Esq., 26, Royal Crescent.
1904 Airey Miss, 1, Royal Crescent.

1920 Bache Mrs., 16, Grosvenor.
1908 Bayliss Rev. F. C., Francis Hotel, Bennett Street.
1919 Begg Mrs., 7, The Circus.
1913 Bigg Rev. G. Howard, 1, Belgrave Road, Grosvenor.
1920 Bird Mrs. Charles, 153, Newbridge Hill.
1920 Blackett Dr., Hamsterley, Bloomfield Park.
1903 Blathwayt Miss, Eagle House, Batheaston.
1904 *Blathwayt Rev. W. E., M.A., Dyrham Rectory, Chippenham.
1903 *Boyd Rev. Prebendary, M.A., B.C.L., The Rectory, Camden Crescent.
1911 Brabazon Miss, 18, Lansdown Crescent.
1912 Bradshaw Major-General, C.B., Buckenhill House, Lansdown.
1912 Bradshaw Mrs., Buckenhill House, Lansdown.
1916 Brendon C. R., Esq., 12, Burlington Street
1916 Brendon Mrs., 12, Burlington Street
1904 *Breton Miss Adela C., 15, Camden Crescent.
1920 Bridgeman Miss, Brow Hill, Batheaston.
1915 Bromley Rev. F. A., M.A., Weston Vicarage.
1910 Brookfield Mrs., Stratton-on-the-Fosse.
1913 Browne Miss Dominick, 15, Marlborough Buildings.
1913 Browne Miss — Dominick, 15, Marlborough Buildings.
1920 Bruce Miss M. C., 7, Portland Place.
1920 Brydges-Barrett Henry, Esq., 14, Raby Place.
1920 Brydges-Barrett Mrs., 14, Raby Place.
1919 Brymer Walter S., Esq., 13, Marlborough Buildings.
1919 Brymer Mrs., 13, Marlborough Buildings.
1920 Bulleid G. Lawrence, Esq., Leura, Lansdown Road.
1920 Bullock R. C., Esq., Northfield, Bathford.
1903 *Bush Robert C., Esq., 1, Winifred's Dale.
1903 *Bush Thos. S., Esq., 20, Camden Crescent.
1903 Bush Mrs. Thos. S., 20, Camden Crescent.

1920 Calder James, Esq., 10, Lansdown Crescent.
1920 Calder Mrs., 10, Lansdown Crescent.
1920 Capes P. E., Esq., 14, Raby Place.
1916 Carr Mrs., Manor House, Weston.
1916 Carr Miss, Manor House, Weston.
1915 *Carr J., Esq., Wood House, Twerton.
1916 Carr Miss, Wood House, Twerton.
1916 Carr Miss J. F., Wood House, Twerton.
1905 Cave Mrs., 16, Circus.
1912 Chope Mrs., 10, Mount Beacon.

1903 Clayton Colonel Emilius, Charlcombe Manor.
1903 Clayton Mrs., Charlcombe Manor.
1911 Colomb Mrs., 17, Darlington Place.
1904 Cooke Miss M. A. H., Lonsdale, Combe Down.
1920 Corbett Mrs. R. C., 3, Cavendish Place.
1912 Courtenay Miss E. F., 30, Rivers Street
1920 Crouch H. M., Esq., Summerfield, Weston Park.
1920 Crouch Mrs., Summerfield, Weston Park.
1904 Curd Charles, Esq., 6, Gay Street.
1904 Curd Mrs., 6, Gay Street.

1917 Daunt Miss Mary, The Shack, Lansdown Road.
1903 Davis Rev. J. Roland, M.A., Broughton Gifford Rectory.
1903 Davis Colonel T. Arnoll, Weston Park House.
1920 Dettmar Miss, Amoril House, Batheaston.
1919 Dickson Mrs., 46, Combe Park.
1920 Dowding Mrs., 22, Marlborough Buildings.
1920 Duncan G. W., Esq., Cavendish Lodge.

1912 Fosbery Dr., 1, Oxford Row.
1911 Foxcroft Captain Charles T., M.P., Hinton Charterhouse.

1916 Gabriel Miss, Fleetlands, Weston.
1920 Gandy Miss Violet, 9, Kensington.
1908 *Gervis Henry, Esq., M.D., F.S.A., 15, Royal Crescent.
1908 Gervis Miss Dora L., 15, Royal Crescent.
1906 Goldie Robert F., Esq., South Lawn, College Road.
1920 Gouldsmith E., Esq., 10, Newbridge Hill.
1914 Graham Miss, 26, Combe Park.
1920 Green Miss, 12, Lansdown Crescent.
1910 Gregory Mrs., Mount Beacon House.
1903 *Gregory George, Esq., 5, Argyle Street
1903 *Grey Gerald J., Esq., 3, Oakley, Claverton Down.
1904 Grey Mrs., 3, Oakley, Claverton Down.
1920 Grey Miss Evelyn, 3, Oakley, Claverton Down.
1915 Grierson Miss, 40, Grosvenor Place.
1920 Grindrod Mrs., Chevin, Lansdown.

1903 *Hallett Mrs., Claverton Lodge, Bathwick.
1918 Hardy Mrs., York Villa, Kensington.
1915 Head H. E., Esq., 14, Dunsford Place.
1904 Heathcote J. Cuthbert, Esq., Brent Knoll Manor, Somerset.
1915 *Hignett Geoffrey, Esq., Hodshill, Southstoke.
1915 *Hignett Mrs., Hodshill, Southstoke.
1913 Holmes Thomas J., Esq., Eastern House, Beechen Cliff.
1903 *Horne Rev. Ethelbert, Downside Abbey.
1915 Horne Miss E. M., The Grange, Keynsham.
1903 *Hylton Right Hon. Lord, Ammerdown Park, Radstock.

1918 Inchbald Rev. W. E., Charlcombe Rectory.
1920 Inchbald Mrs., Charlcombe Rectory.
1916 Ingham H. M., Esq., 4, Raby Place.
1913 Irwin Mrs. A., 33, Sion Hill.

1903 *Kemeys-Tynte St. David M., Esq., The Beeches, Bathwick Hill.
1920 Ketchley Rev. H. E., Biddestone Rectory, Chippenham.
1919 King C. A., Esq., Brookfield, Weston Road.

1919 King Mrs. C. A., Brookfield, Weston Road.
1903 *Kirkwood Colonel Hendley P., Newbridge House (Deceased).
1903 Knight Miss J. F., 17, Catharine Place.

1917 Lascells E. H., Esq., 3, Park Lane.
1917 Lawrence Emily Lady, Langridge House.
1917 Lawrence Miss, Langridge House.
1905 *Lawrence F. W., Esq., M.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., Hillcote (Deceased).
1915 Layton, Mrs., 14, Elm Place, Bloomfield Road.
1908 Leigh Colonel P. P., C.I.E., Grosvenor House.
1916 Leigh Mrs., Grosvenor House.
1919 Lindsay Miss, 7, Johnston Street.
1913 Linley-Howlden H., Esq., Old Manor House, Freshford.
1916 Linley-Howlden Mrs., Old Manor House, Freshford.
1910 Longworth-Dames Miss C., 2, Winifred's Dale.

1920 Macnab Miss, 13, Lansdown Place, East.
1917 Mainwaring Colonel, Cleveland House.
1916 Martyn Mrs. King, 8, Gay Street.
1913 Maule Major-General, 2, Penn Lea, Newbridge Hill (Deceased).
1919 Meredith Miss, 7, Tennyson Road.
1907 Miller Mrs., St. Albans, Weston Park.
1920 Miller Miss, St. Albans, Weston Park.
1913 Milsom A. C., Esq., De Montalt, Combe Down.
1913 Milsom Mrs., De Montalt, Combe Down.
1916 Milsom F. H., Esq., Audley Lodge.
1916 Milsom Mrs. F. H., Audley Lodge.
1917 Molesworth Brigadier-General, C.B., Elstree House, Lambridge.
1920 Molesworth Miss, Elstree House, Lambridge.
1920 Moncrieff Mrs. Cunningham, 63, Combe Park.
1920 Molony Alfred, Esq., Edgar Hotel, Laura Place.
1909 Mules Rev. F H., 17, Pulteney Road.

1910 Nash Mrs., 7, Laura Place.
1912 Newham Miss, 11, Raby Place, Bathwick.
1903 *Norman George, Esq., F.S.A.I., 12, Brock Street.
1907 Norman Mrs., 12, Brock Street.
1913 Norman Miss, Oakfield, Weston Park.
1919 Nowell Mrs., 1, Catharine Place.

1917 O'Sullivan Dr., Glencairn, Bathwick.
1918 O'Sullivan Miss, Glencairn, Bathwick.

1912 Parry Hubert, Esq., 28, Newbridge Hill
1920 Parry Mrs. H., 28, Newbridge Hill.
1920 Peirse Lady, Fiesole, Bathwick Hill.
1913 Perkes Rev. R. M., 39, Combe Park.
1913 Phillimore J. E., Esq., Sedgley, Sion Road.
1904 Pitcairn Rev. D. Lee, M.A., 1, Laura Place.
1904 Pitcairn Mrs., 1, Laura Place.
1918 Pitt Walter, Esq., Southstoke House.
1911 Pitt Mrs., Southstoke House.
1913 Powell Rev. W. H., D.D., 15, Lansdown Crescent.
1911 Powell Mrs. W. H., 15, Lansdown Crescent.
1915 Powell Mrs., 12, Rivers Street.
1920 Pritchard Miss E., Combe Royal, Bathwick.
1907 Pryce Ernest, Esq., 10, Cavendish Crescent.
1906 Pryce Mrs., 10, Cavendish Crescent.

1920 Quinton John, Esq., Elder House, Tyning Road, Combe Down.

1909 Rodman Miss, 17, The Tyning.
1903 Rolleston Colonel V., Saltford House, Bristol,
1903 Rolleston S. V., Esq., B.C.L., M.A., Saltford House, Bristol.
1914 Rose Mrs. H. Fullwood, 93, Sydney Place.
1920 Rowe Colonel Octavius, 4, Royal Crescent.
1920 Rowe Mrs., 4, Royal Crescent.

1904 Salmon Miss E. E., 26, Hawthorn Grove, Combe Down.
1904 Salmon Miss L. M., 26, Hawthorn Grove, Combe Down.
1920 Sartoris Miss, 31, St. James's Square.
1903 *Scott M. H., Esq., 5, Lansdown Place, West.
1917 Scott-White Rev. A. H., Claverton Rectory.
1919 *Scratton Arthur Esq., Woodleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1920 Scratton Mrs., Woodleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1915 Segar Edward, Esq., Bella Vista, Lansdown.
1920 Severs Miss E., 17, Marlborough Buildings.
1920 Severs Miss A., 17, Marlborough Buildings.
1918 *Shickle Rev. C. W., F.S.A., 9, Cavendish Crescent.
1907 Shum F. E., Esq., 24, Sydney Buildings.
1903 *Sibbald J. G. E., Esq., Mount Pleasant, Norton St. Philip.
1920 Singers-Bigger Miss Gladys, 12, Marlborough Buildings.
1920 Sonnenschein E. A., Esq., 5, Sion Hill Place.
1920 Sonnenschein Mrs., 5, Sion Hill Place.
1903 Spender Miss, 8, Forester Road.
1920 Start Miss, 21, Rivers Street.
1903 *Strachie Lord, Sutton Court, Pensford, Bristol.
1911 Straghan Mrs., 26, Crescent Gardens.
1912 Strangways Miss R. C., 6, Brunswick Place.
1920 Street A. E., Esq., 12, Somerset Place.
1920 Street Mrs., 12, Somerset Place.

1918 Taite Miss, 30, Paragon.
1915 Tanner J. H., Esq., 12, Beaufort East.
1915 Tanner Mrs., 12, Beaufort East.
1904 Taylor A. J., Esq., 18, New Bond Street.
1903 *Thatcher A. A., Esq., Midsomer Norton.
1903 *Thomas C. E., Esq., 4, Percy Place.
1920 Thomas Miss H. T., Derwent House, Weston.
1920 Thomas Miss T., Derwent House, Weston.
1920 Thring Mrs. C. B., Ormonde House, Sion Hill.
1920 Thring Miss Marjory, Ormonde House, Sion Hill.
1903 *Tite Charles, Esq., Stoneleigh, Taunton.
1918 Tweed Miss Rachael, The Shack, Lansdown.
1904 Tyte W., Esq., 7, Bloomfield Crescent.

1920 Vibert Lionel, Esq., Marline, Lansdown.
1920 Vibert Mrs., Marline, Lansdown.

1914 Wace Henry, Esq., St. Winifreds.
1914 Wace Miss, St. Winifreds.
1903 *Waldegrave Right Hon. the Earl, Chewton Priory.
1913 Walker Robert, Esq., F.R.G.S.
1916 Walker W. A., Esq., 6, Percy Place.
1910 *Wardle F. D., Esq., 5, Vane Street
1905 Watson Mrs. Dominic, 21, Royal Crescent.

1920 WATSON Miss A. E., Swainswick Cottage.
1904 WAY Miss H. S., 1, Rosslyn Road, Newbridge Hill.
1920 WAYNE Miss, 12, Bladud Buildings.
1920 WEBB Mrs. GILLUM, 11, Lansdown Place, East.
1903 *WHITTUCK E. A., Esq., 77, Audley Street, W. 1.
1917 WILKINSON Lady, Deepdene, Bathampton.
1917 WILKINSON Miss, Deepdene, Bathampton.
1904 WILLIAMS D. PROUT, Esq., 7, Belvedere.
1913 WILLS J. H., Esq., Potticks House, Frankleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1913 WILLS Mrs., Potticks House, Frankleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1913 WILLS STANLEY, Esq., 14, Royal Crescent.
1913 WILLS Mrs., 14, Royal Crescent.
1920 WILSON Miss, Woodville, Lansdown.
1920 WILSON Mrs. SPENCER, Woodville, Lansdown.
1903 *WINWOOD Rev. H. H., F.G.S., 11, Cavendish Crescent (Deceased).
1908 WOOD Miss ELLEN, 38, Combe Park.
1914 WOOD Miss MARGARET, 59, Combe Park.
1913 WOODS JOHN C., Esq., Bank House, Trowbridge.

1911 YOUNG B. W., Esq., 1, Stanley Villas, Camden Road.

The Treasurer in account with the Bath and District Branch Somerset Archæological Society for 1920.

1920.	Dr.	£	s.	d.
To	Balance from last year	121	3	10
,,	219 Members' Subscriptions	54	15	0
,,	2 ditto paid for 1921	0	10	0
,,	Sale of Proceedings	0	17	6
,,	Excursions	0	11	2
,,	Dividends on 4½% War Loan	2	5	0
		£180	2	6

1920.	Cr.				£	s.	d.
By	William Lewis & Son, Ltd., Printing and Illustrating Proceedings, 1919				27	14	0
,,	Fyson & Co., Circulars and Stationery				1	19	6
,,	William Lewis & Son, Ltd., Receipt Book, Circulars, *re* Meetings, Excursions, &c. ..				8	4	0
,,	3 Lectures—Hire of Room, Lantern and Fees				4	14	0
,,	Postages, Proceedings, Circulars, &c.				3	2	0
,,	Envelopes				0	10	6
,,	Excursion, Glastonbury ..				4	2	8
,,	Murray Dowding, Copyright Photos				0	5	0
,,	Donation, Glastonbury Excavation				1	1	0
,,	Ditto, National Trust				1	1	0
,,	Subscription, Somerset Archæological Society				1	1	0
,,	Hire of Rooms, Literary Institution				0	17	6
					54	12	2
,,	Balance 4½% War Loan	£50	0	0			
,,	,, War Certificates	38	15	0			
,,	,, L. C. Westminster and Parrs ..	36	15	4			
					125	10	4
					£180	2	6

Audited and found correct—EDWARD SEGAR,
14th December, 1920.

THOS. S. BUSH, *Hon. Treasurer*.

The cost of the Proceedings for 1920 not included in the above.

SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH

1921.

◆

BATH:
PRINTED AT THE HERALD PRESS.

BATH AND DISTRICT BRANCH

SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

REPORT, 1921.

THE Committee are pleased to announce a further increase in the number of members. Commencing the year with 215, there were two deaths, eleven resignations and four defaulters early in the year, later on three members who had paid their subscriptions, passed away. Total loss 20; 34 were elected, so closing the year with 229.

At a Special Meeting of the Committee, held on June 29th, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

> "The Committee deeply regret the death of Colonel Clayton. He took an active interest in this Branch Society from its inception in 1904, was elected one of the Hon. Secretaries that year, but on resigning in 1907, was placed on the Committee and has annually been re-elected. On the death of Colonel Kirkwood he was appointed Chairman of the Committee."

The Hon. Secretary was instructed to forward the above to Mrs. Clayton with the Committee's sympathy with her and her family at their sad loss.

An account of the Annual Meeting, Earl Waldegrave, President, in the chair, will follow this Report.

The Committee have to thank Mr. Gerald Grey for arranging the six excursions, and congratulated him on their success. They are described in these Proceedings. Their thanks are also given to Mr. George Norman for his lecture on "Northumbrian Crosses," and to Mr. J. E. Barton, M.A., for his lecture on "The Craft of the English Mediæval Masons"; both were illustrated by lantern slides. A report of them is given in these Proceedings.

Last year Mr. H. Parry gave us the privilege of reproducing, of course much reduced in size (they vary in length from about 7ft. downwards) a few of the many rubbings of brasses he has taken in several churches; this year six have been reproduced, with some notes prepared by Mr. Parry explaining them. Other illustrations are from photographs supplied by our members, Miss Newham, Miss Rodman, and Mr. Gerald Grey. The Committee have also to thank the following for photographs: Of Westwood Manor, from Mr. Egdar Lister; Nailsea Court, from Commander Evans; the Red Lodge, Bristol, from Mr. Eberle; and St. Peter's Hospital (2) Bristol, from Mr. Simmons.

The Committee have to thank Mr. Thos. S. Bush for carrying out the duties of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. The accounts will, no doubt, be considered satisfactory. They have been audited by Mr. Segar and are printed with these Proceedings.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Monday, April 11th, 1921, at 3 o'clock. Among those present were Earl Waldegrave, President, in the Chair, Col. Clayton, the Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn, Mr. G. Norman, Mr. M. H. Scott, Mr. Edward Segar, Mr. Thos. S. Bush (hon. secretary and treasurer), Mr. Gerald J. Grey (hon. excursion secretary), Mr. C. Mercer-Adam, Mrs. Bache, the Rev. F. C. Bayliss, Mr. C. R. Brendon, Miss Ethel Bridgman, Miss May Bridgman (R.M.S.), Mr. and Mrs. Brydges-Barrett, Miss Bruce, Mrs. Thos. S. Bush, Mr. James Calder, Miss Campbell, Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Dickson, Mr. G. W. Duncan, the Rev. L. H. Evans, Mr. T. J. Holmes, Mr. H. M. Ingham, Miss G. Jay, Miss Knight, Miss Eva Lethbridge, Col. Mainwaring, Miss Meredith, Miss Newham, Dr. O'Sullivan, Miss K. O'Sullivan, the Rev. R. M. Perkes, Miss Rodman, Misses E. E. and L. M. Salmon, Miss Sartoris, and Brigadier-General Thackwell. Major-General Bradshaw, Colonel Leigh and Mr. Kemeys-Tynte regretted not being able to attend.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The President proposed the adoption of the report and accounts, which he considered very satisfactory. The balance in hand showed a slight increase on the previous year. They had lost two very valuable members, the Rev. H. H. Winwood and Col. Kirkwood. Both of them had done a great deal of good work for the society and this Branch in particular. The membership to-day stood at about 225, and they had decided not to admit any more new members for the present. He was glad to see Mr. Bush and Mr. Grey in their old places, which he hoped they would fill for many years.

Mr. Duncan seconded, and this was carried.

Col. E. Clayton proposed the re-election of Earl Waldegrave as President. They all knew how much interest he had always taken in the Society, and what an excellent President he made. (Applause).

Mr. E. Segar seconded, and this was carried unanimously.

Lord Strachie and Captain C. T. Foxcroft, M.P., were re-elected Vice-Presidents, on the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Brendon.

On the proposition of Col. Mainwaring, seconded by Brig.-General Thackwell, the following were appointed to form a committee :—Major-Gen. L. J. E. Bradshaw, Col. E. Clayton, Mr. St. D. M. Kemeys-Tynte, Col. H. P. P. Leigh, Mr. George Norman, the Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn, Mr. M. H. Scott, and Mr. E. Segar.

Dr. O'Sullivan moved the re-election of Mr. Thomas S. Bush as hon. secretary and treasurer.—Mr. Holmes seconded, and this was carried with acclamation. The President remarked that they could not get a better one.

Mr. Bush having thanked the members for re-electing him, referred to the work of the society, and said that he had received several letters of appreciation of the " Proceedings." They were very well got up, of course costing a good deal, and he hoped they would do their best to keep them going.

The Rev. F. C. Bayliss moved the re-election of the Hon. Excursion Secretary. Everybody appreciated the thoroughness and care with which he carried on the work. (Applause).

The Rev. L. H. Evans seconded, and this was carried unanimously.

Mr. Grey thanked the society very much for re-electing him. He had occupied the position 13 years, and had so covered the ground that he did not know where to take the members now. After this year they would have to go to the same places again. He then gave a list of proposed excursions.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Earl Waldegrave for presiding.

EXCURSIONS.

WESTWOOD.

Monday, April 18th, 1921.

Seventy-one members attended the first afternoon excursion of the season, the weather being fine. The members first inspected the parish church of St. Mary, under the guidance of the Vicar (the Rev. G. H. Kirkham) (see former visit of the Bath Branch in the Proceedings, 1906, pp. 141–2).

The chief interest was the Manor house, where the members were welcomed by the owner, Mr. Edgar Lister, who, in an interesting paper sketched the history of the Manor House. It was built at the end of the 15th Century by Thomas Horton, who belonged to a younger branch of the Hortons of Catton, in Derbyshire. They came to Wiltshire, attracted by the fame of its woollen manufacture. He died in 1530, and was buried in the " Ile of our Lady " in Bradford-on-Avon Church. The Horton family remained in the house till 1609, when Toby Horton, who had married Barbara Farewell, of Holbrooke, in Somerset, sold the manor to his brother-in-law, John Farewell —descendants of the family have been resident in Bath. John Farewell made extensive alterations, and to him is ascribed much of the present aspect and interior arrangement of the house. He converted the great hall into a hall with a great parlour over it, placing the present screen in the same position as the 15th Century screen which he removed, and inserting the present windows for those of the 15th Century. He also inserted plaster ceilings and a good deal of the panelling, which are in a wonderful state of preservation. About 1620, perhaps when he married Meliora, daughter of John Bampfylde, of Poltimore, he built a circular turret in the angle of the two wings, within which winds a subsidiary staircase, which absorbed two of the eight lights of the mullioned windows of the great parlour, with the result that the principal mullion is not in the middle of the window. Farewell also built the present porch inside which the original 15th Century door still remains. Various Farewells occupied the house, which from 1697 to 1704 was the residence of Sir John and Lady Hanham (ancestors of Lady Caillard), after which date little is known of the occupiers until it became a farmhouse in the early part of the 19th Century. It was rescued by Mr. Edgar Lister, who attempted with complete success to put it back as it was in the 17th century, restoring the old atmosphere inside and out.

About half the glass of the windows had been removed and replaced by plate glass, but fortunately there was enough left of the original glass to make a faithful reproduction possible. Only old glass was used, and the original glazing was copied minutely in every particular.

The members then inspected the interior. On entering a low ante-room leads into a quaint apartment known as "the King's room." The wall is covered with panelling, and the top tier of the panels is filled with portraits of English monarchs from the Conqueror to Charles I. (removed from Keevil Manor). The plaster work dates from 1610, and among the furniture are three chairs of yew. The dining-room is 15th Century, with the exception of the plaster work, one window, and the panelling. In the great parlour Mr. Lister mentioned he found the panelling papered over, the room was divided into two by a papered wooden partition, now removed, and the eastern porch had disappeared, but most of it was recovered—the porches are features of the rooms. The "Oriel" room is 15th Century, with some of John Farewell's plaster work, and the old shutters, and the Gothic room has 15th Century ceiling, door and fireplace, and another room has windows and ceiling of the 15th Century.

Before leaving Lieut.-Col. H. P. P. Leigh expressed the gratitude of the branch to Mr. Lister, and their deep appreciation of the beauties of his home.

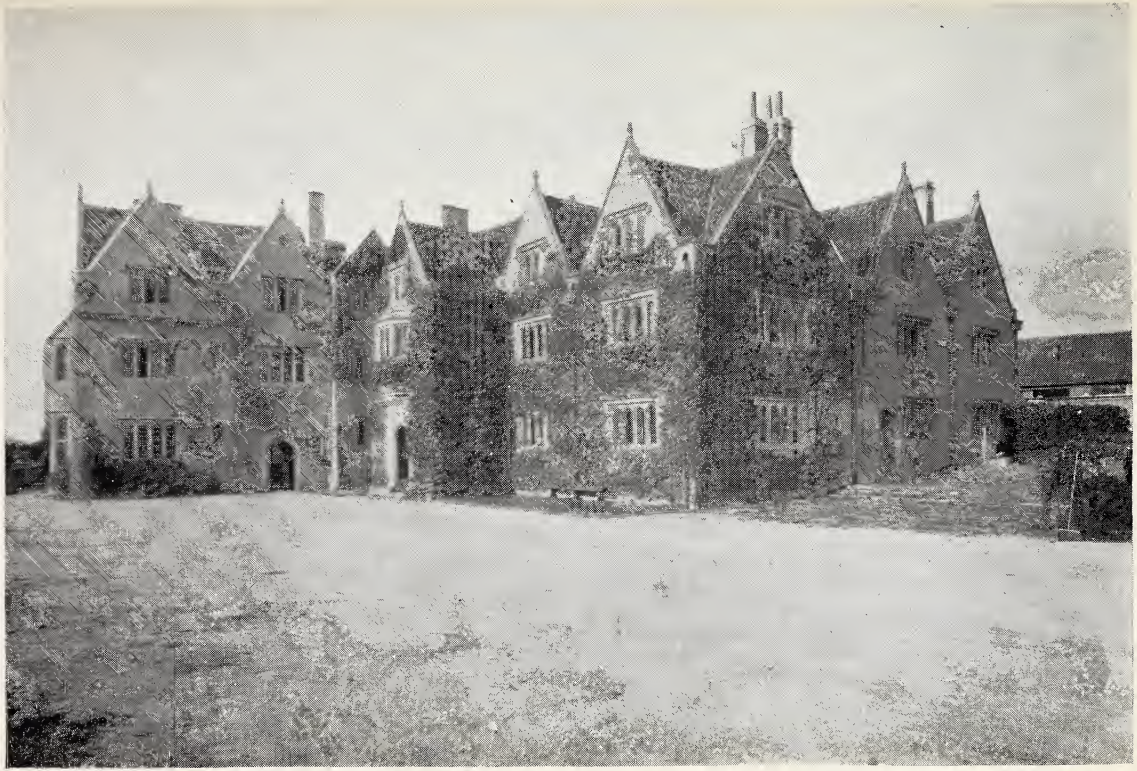
Tea was afterwards partaken of at the Swan Hotel, Bradford-on-Avon, Bath being reached at 6 o'clock.

WRAXALL, NAILSEA, NAILSEA COURT, TICKENHAM AND FLAX BOURTON.

Monday, May 23rd, 1921.

The second excursion took place in perfect weather, and 69 members started from Queen Square by motor char-a-banc at 10.30 a.m.

Arriving at Wraxall at noon, the members were welcomed by the Rector (the Rev. W. S. Mather), and shown the parish church of All Saints', which is known to all users of the road for the beauty of its western tower, one of the finest of the many

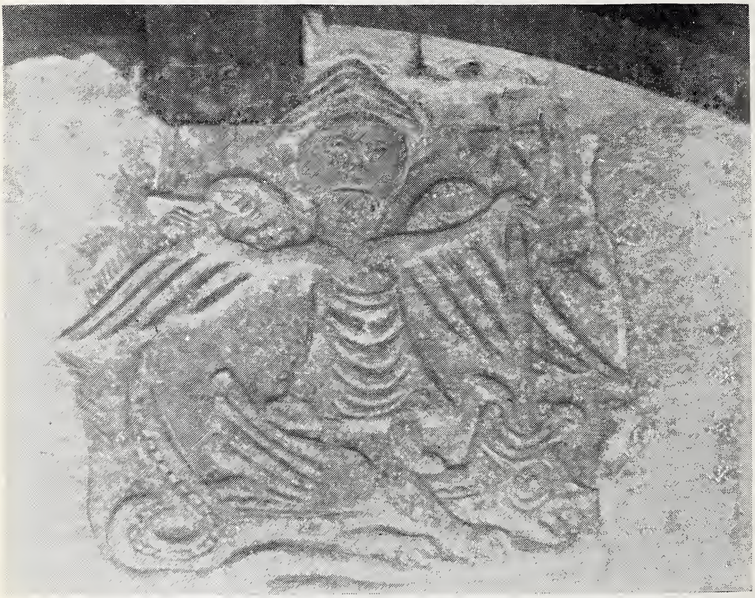


[*Photo, F. Bromhead, Clifton.*

NAILSEA COURT.

[*Photo supplied by Mr. Edgar Lister.*

WESTWOOD MANOR.



Norman Sculpture of St. Michael and the Dragon. [*Photo, Gerald Grey.*

FLAX BOURTON CHURCH.

lovely church towers in Somerset. The Rector, who kindly read some very interesting and instructive notes on the church, pointed out that the tower, which is ornamented with windows, buttresses, open parapet and decorated pinnacles, is in four graduated stages. There are four niches, three reconstructed and blank, and the fourth containing the original life-size figure of Henry VI. or Edward IV. The interior of the building consists of a chancel with chapels on either side, nave and north aisle, and is a fine example of 15th Century work. The south porch is unusually high, the external doorway being of 1st Pointed date, and the inner doorway Norman, the only relic of the original Norman church. The priests' gallery and priests' chamber were unusual features, the former being distinct to the district. The earlier restoration was in the 1st Pointed Period, to which the chancel, north aisle and south porch belong; the roof and windows date from another restoration in the 15th Century. The chancel was once thought to be Early English, owing to having a piscina and priest's door of that period, but these were found to be inserted in a wall of later construction. It is noticeable that the chancel arch is out of centre with the nave; it is the original arch of the 1st Pointed Period, and is plain, with no pillars or capitals. The fine 15th Century roof of the nave consists of a closely set series of moulded timbers, with carved bosses—the central one has eight human faces, and eight eyes do double duty. The register dates from 1562, and the list of rectors is almost complete from 1265.

The members were cordially welcomed at Nailsea by the Rector (the Rev. J. Johnson), and taken to the church of Holy Trinity. The tower is not so elaborate as some of the Somerset examples, but it is stately and well-proportioned. Holy Trinity is an ancient and handsome village church, consisting of chancel, nave, and south aisle. Its earliest architecture points to the 14th Century, and it contains many objects of interest, notably the octagonal stone pulpit standing on a high moulded pedestal, against the north wall. On the eastern piers of the nave are the original corbels which formerly supported the rood loft beam. An uncommon feature is the absence of a chancel arch. The 14th Century font has side panels carved with various devices, including the Tudor rose. At the east end of the south aisle is an ancient piscina, and on the north side the Nailsea Court pew with some good panelling and also a hagioscope in an unusual position. In the chancel is another ancient piscina and an original priests' doorway, now blocked up. By the generosity of Commander Evans, of Nailsea Court, the porch has recently been restored and the many coats of paint scraped from the ancient door.

After luncheon at the Royal Oak, the drive was resumed to Tickenham. The parish church, which they visited under the guidance of the Rev. S. M. Ridge,has a rare dedication—Saints Quiricus and Julietta, mother and son, both martyrs, who were put to death in the reign of Diocletian. Quiricus, a boy of only four, is said to have been torn from his mother's arms while she was stretched upon the rack, and exclaiming as he struggled to get back to his mother that he also was a Christian, the enraged Governor dashed him against the steps of the tribunal. The two saints are much honoured in France, and commemorated on June 16, but Newton St. Cyr, Devon, and Luxulyan, Cornwall, are the only other churches dedicated to the two saints, though Tintagel Castle chapel and Inceworth chapel, in Cornwall, are dedicated to the mother. The church dates from the 11th Century and presents features of all the different styles of architecture, but the delight of the building to the visitors was that it is such a beautiful church of early Norman work. The oldest portion is the chancel, which has a very low Norman arch of extreme plainness, destitute of ornament, which is stated to be the only remaining portion of the original building. In the high wall above, which presents a somewhat barren appearance, and on the south, is the original rood-loft doorway, which has been walled up. A mediæval altar slab with five incised crosses thereon, removed from the floor of the nave, forms the "musa" of the Holy Table. At the foot of the chancel arch is a staircase to the rood-loft, now closed. The early English font is a square bowl with chamfered lower edges and supported by a plain pillar. Some of the windows are good examples of Perpendicular work, and the northern windows of earlier date, show good tracery. One of the most interesting features is the freestone effigies lying on a long stone bench under the north windows. They are stated to be of 13th Century date; they represent two knights in armour, apparently crusaders of the time of Edward I., and a lady in a headdress of the same period. The well proportioned tower, so conspicuous on the Clevedon road, is ornamented with battlements and pinnacles. The figures in the canopies in the battlements on each side are interesting; they illustrate the story of Quiricus and Julietta.

Close to the church are the venerable remains of an ancient manorial mansion, called Tickenham Court House, originally built in the form of a Roman H. Its style may be cited as a model of the architecture of the time, early in the 15th

Century. The building is sadly decayed, but part is in a sufficient state of repair to be used as a farmhouse. The old withdrawing-room remains almost entire, and many of the fine features are extant, notable the magnificent oak ceiling and the old hall.

Nailsea Court was next visited. The owner, Commander Evans, received the members, and having given a brief resume of the Court and its owners (see Notes, Proceedings 1911, p. 84), let the members wander at will through the house. Afterwards Commander Evans entertained the members on the lawn, where light refreshments were served.

On behalf of the society Mr. Kemeys-Tynte expressed thanks to Commander Evans for his great kindness and generous hospitality.

Finally, by permission of the Rev. W. Rooke, the members saw the pretty little church of St. Michael's and All Angels, Flax Bourton, one of the smallest churches in the neighbourhood, but of considerable interest on account of its age and the existing remains of its earliest style of architecture. It now comprises a chancel, nave of three bays, north aisle with north chapel, a remarkably fine old south porch, and a western embattled tower. The oldest portions are the chancel arch, the south doorway and font, all of Norman date, probably dating about 1140. It is thought that the existing chancel and nave formed the whole of the original edifice. The most interesting feature of the interior is the fine Norman chancel arch, which stands without an ornament, save a roll moulding on the upper part, has square unadorned edges, and is supported by two circular pillars on either side, with square capitals. The marks of the axes used by the workmen, even after so many centuries, are still visible on the work. The chancel is inconveniently small, but it is in keeping with the other portions of the building—so many village churches have had their proportion quite spoiled by the addition of an enlarged chancel, oft-times too large for the older nave. An ancient priests' doorway, leading into the chancel, is plainly visible from the exterior, but is now bricked up. The font is a good example of Norman work, square, and resting on a circular pedestal, with roll mouldings on a square base. The bowl is plain with the exception of the lower edge, which is scalloped. The fine old south porch is unusually lofty. It is doubly recessed ; the inner arch is plain, and resembles the chancel arch, but the outer arch is richly ornamented. Above the arch is a rude and quaintly carved illustration of the patron saint, St. Michael, represented treading on the dragon (see illustration). It is thought that this curious relic is of earlier date than the old Norman building. The tower is low, but of good proportions. An old story goes that the preacher at Bourton church delivers his discourse from the pinnacle of the tower—this is in a sense correct, for many years ago one of the pinnacles was blown down and the stone used for the joists of the floor of the pulpit.

The members had tea at the old inn, known as the Angel, which dates from Elizabethan times. The members greatly enjoyed the day, and at tea Lieut.-Colonel H. P. P. Leigh expressed the warm thanks of the branch to Mr. Gerald Grey.

Bath was reached at 7 o'clock.

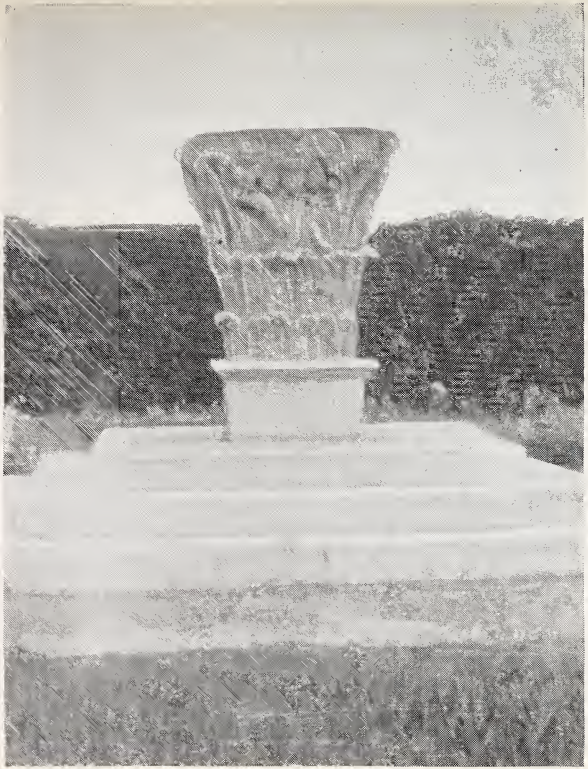
CIRENCESTER.

TUESDAY, June 14th, 1921.

Delightful weather favoured this excursion, and 66 members started from Fountain Buildings by motor char-a-banc. After a pleasant run of two hours, Cirencester was reached, via Malmesbury.

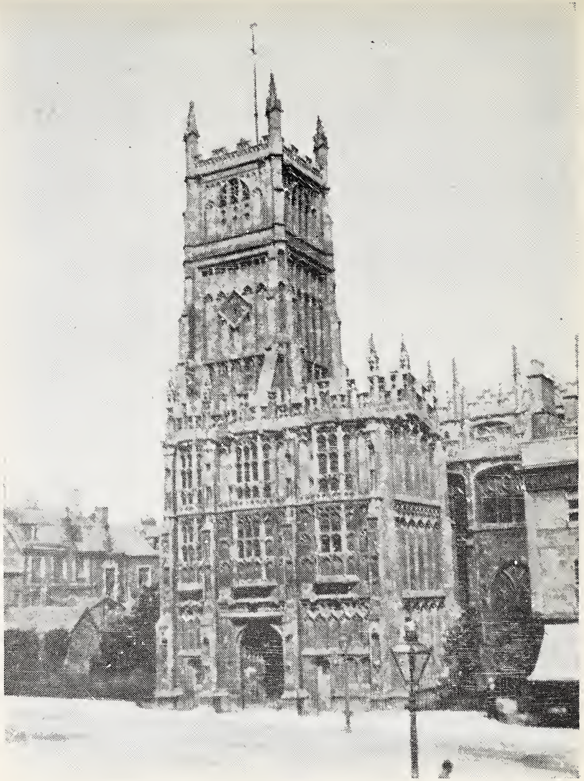
Cirencester, the Corinium of the Romans, is a fascinating place to archæologists. The town was one of the earliest occupied by the Romans, and remained one of their most important military and civil centres; it stood on the great Roman road, Ermin Street, and both the Fosse Way and Ackman Street led to it. In the Norman days it became a place of importance, and much later history attaches to it.

The members were met at the parish church of St. John the Baptist, by Mr. Sewell, and, in the absence of the Vicar (the Rev. W. A. Robins), by his curate. They entered by the celebrated three-staged great south porch, which was built in 1500 on the site of an older structure. The chambers above, originally in two storeys, were for the meetings of various Church Guilds, but in 1672 a faculty was granted allowing the Vicar and wardens to let it for public purposes, and it has been used as the Town Hall. The exterior is of beautiful and striking appearance, and the fan tracery of the porch roof is a notable feature. The church itself, as Mr. Sewell pointed out, is one of the finest buildings in the country. It is the largest parish church in Gloucestershire, and larger than three of our cathedrals. It has a total length of 180ft., and breadth of 104ft., and an area internal of 13,150 square feet. The building stands on the site of a much earlier church, a Norman church, which extended from half-way down the choir to the line of the south porch. The Ermin Street ran along



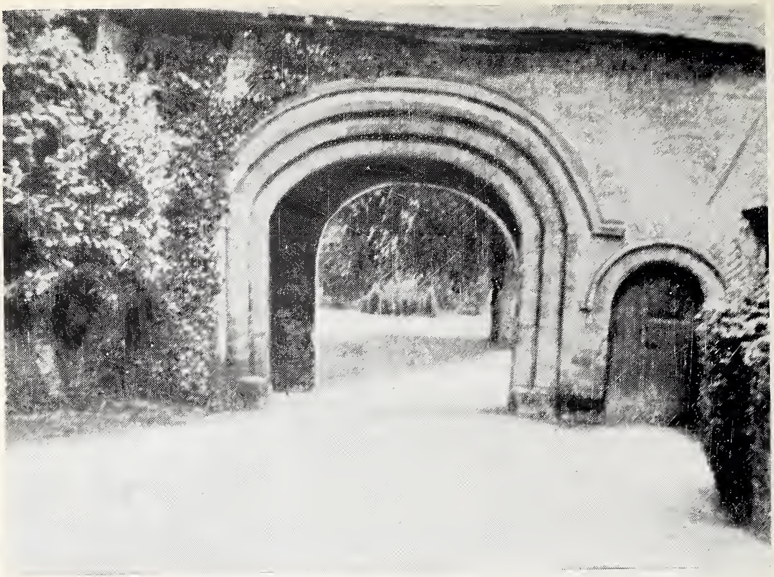
Roman Capital. [*Photo, Miss Rodman.*

ABBEY GROUNDS, CIRENCESTER.



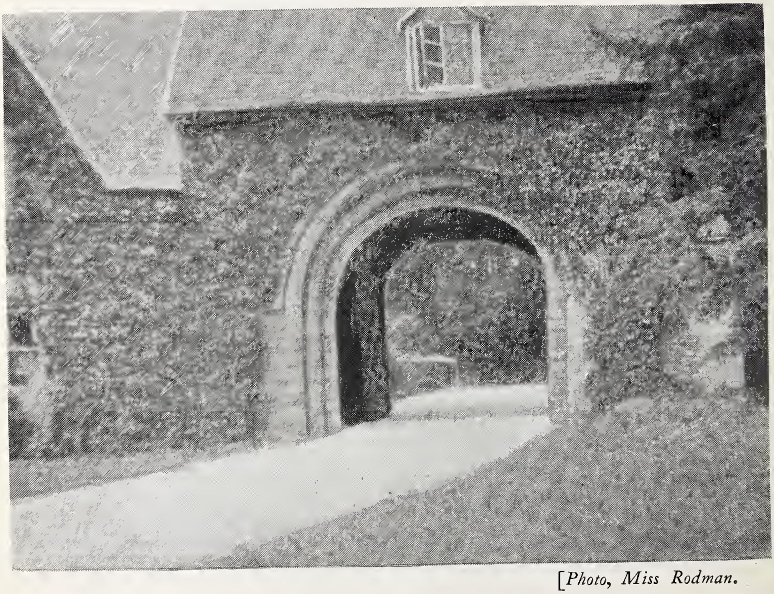
St. John the Baptist. [*Photo, Miss Newham.*

CIRENCESTER.



[*Photo, Miss Rodman.*

ABBEY GATEWAY, EAST SIDE, CIRENCESTER.



[*Photo, Miss Rodman.*

ABBEY GATEWAY, WEST SIDE, CIRENCESTER.

that line, and the Norman church approached probably to the border of that old road. The Norman church gave way to an Early English church of a very considerable size, the west walls of which are still standing—in the west wall of the north aisle the string course of the Early English Church roof is seen projecting. In the reign of Henry II. an Augustinian monastery was established at Cirencester, on the site of the ancient Saxon College of Canons, and there were two magnificent churches side by side up to the time of Henry VIII., the Abbey church, Norman in character, with a central tower, and the parish church. The Perpendicular building came about in this way. The wool staplers of the town grew so wealthy between 1400 and 1500 that they decided not only to repair their Early English church, but actually to pull it down and build one of their own which would equal, if not excel, those of other towns on the Cotswolds. They began in 1515, swept away the existing church, and built the present magnificent arcaded building, ran a clerestory with a central window over the chancel arch, and what is very unusual, ran a clerestory all along the north aisle.

The whole of the windows were filled with magnificent coloured glass, nearly the whole of which has been destroyed, but the remnant collected in the west window shows the beautiful character of the windows of that period. In the transitional period north and south aisles had been added to the chancel, and the arcades of these aisles still remain—in the southern is a good deal of Roman material. There are still remains of the Norman church on each side of the chancel arch, and in the lower parts of the wall at the south-east corner of the south aisle. From the nave the chancel arch, which has the doorways of the rood, is symmetrical in appearance, but on passing into the choir the arch is seen to be much out of the centre of the choir, showing that for some reason it was necessary to rebuild the north wall. The Norman tower gave trouble through settlement, the Lady Chapel on the north had to be reconstructed, and it was decided to do away with the tower, and in 1416 the fine western tower (134ft. high) was erected. It was intended to carry a spire, but possibly owing to insecure Roman-British foundations, the spire could not be built, and the two large flying buttresses were put up before the tower was finished, to support it.

The north choir aisle chapel, St. Catherine's, contains a very beautiful fan tracery roof, formerly the roof of the cloisters of the Abbey, which was the only portion of the Abbey rescued at the time of the Dissolution and destruction of the Abbey. The Lady Chapel has been rebuilt three times, and contains nothing ancient except the lower part of the main wall, and in the window are all the remains of the ancient glass not preserved in the east and west windows. In the south-east corner of the south aisle is the Jesus chantry chapel, erected in 1440 by the Garstang family, and the chapel of the Holy Trinity on the north side of the nave (built in 1430) is a most beautiful piece of architecture; the roof is unsurpassed. Mr. Sewell drew special attention to the remains of ecclesiastical vestments, the cope of Ralph Parsons, priest (1478), and to the beautiful church plate, notably the Boleyn cup, in silver gilt pure Rennaissance, made for Anne Boleyn (for which £10,000 has been offered to the church authorities), a pair of gilt chalices (1570)—two fine specimens of early post-Reformation chalices, and a 1756 flagon.

The cordial thanks of the Society to the Vicar and his Curate were voiced by the Rev. F. C. Bayliss.

After lunch the members went to the Abbey grounds (by permission of Major J. Gordon Dugdale, D.S.O.), where Mr. Sewell pointed out the site of the once magnificent Norman Abbey of St. Mary and St. James, of Cirencester, and there showed the old Abbey hospital gateway, the only relic of the old Abbey which remains (except the roof of St. Catherine's chapel). It stands close to the stream which was once the Abbey moat and led to the old hospice. The farmery and other monastic agricultural buildings were close by. A few years ago a bookseller's catalogue announced a picture of the Abbey buildings by Nattes—an artist with Bath associations—and Lord Bathurst purchased it and presented it to the town. That picture of the ruins as they existed 120 years ago was the only knowledge they had of the Abbey, except from documentary records and conjecture. The Abbey was all powerful in Cirencester, and exercised all feudal rights.

In the Abbey grounds was also inspected an interesting Roman carved capital with four heads. It was always believed to be a capital of a Roman temple at Cirencester, which had not yet been found. A distinguished authority stated that the column belonged to the class of architecture found in Northern Gaul and Germany, an example of the provincial Germanic or Gaulish cult. No other case existed in Roman Britain, and it showed the connection existing in Roman days between Southern Britain and Northern Europe.

Next were seen the interesting remains of the old hospital of St. John, in Spitalgate Lane, which was founded by Henry I. The arches, which are in a fine state of preservation, were in later years quite enclosed, but the trustees of the charity have restored them and left them open to view.

By the kindness of Mrs. Wilfred Cripps, the Society had the unusual advantage of seeing the contents of her Roman museum. The collection of bone pins, bronze implements, bronze brooches, brooches like the safety-pin brooches of the present day, articles in jade, and a variety of ornaments and Samian pottery, is said to be unequalled. Notable in a collection, which Mrs. Cripps herself showed the Society, were two remarkably fine stone groups of the Deæ Matres—the mother goddesses—one in local stone and the other in Bath stone, and an altar dedicated to the Suleviæ, all taken from what was clearly an old mason's yard in Cirencester. There were also some remains of Roman tesselated pavements.

Mr. Gerald Grey, in thanking Mrs. Cripps, said he had been associated with Mr. A. Trice Martin in the classification of ornaments found at Caerwent, but there was nothing at Caerwent to compare with what they had seen in Mrs. Cripp's museum.

Passing through Cirencester House Gardens (by permission of Earl Bathurst), where the yew hedge, 120 years old and 30 feet high, admitted to be the finest in the country, was noted, as well as the fine avenues, the members finally visited the Roman museum erected in 1849 by the generosity of Henry George Earl Bathurst, principally for the reception of two remarkably fine Roman tesselated pavements discovered in Dyer Street and removed with great care. The design of one is central circle with four semi-circles forming the sides of the figure, while the corners are filled in with quadrants and lozenge spaces. In the central circle are three dogs in full chase, and in the semi-circles were a dragon in pursuit of fish, a lion, petals of flowers, and Medusa's head. The other pavement in its perfect form had nine medallions enclosed in octagonal frames. The central figure was supposed to be a centaur and the others the Goddess Flora, Silenius sitting backward on an ass, Ceres, Action being changed into a stag, Pomona, and a figure probably representing Bacchus. Altogether there was a fine collection of numerous Roman relics.

Professor Sonnenschein moved a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Sewell, speaking appreciatively of his great knowledge of and love for his subject, and thanking him for instructive and interesting guidance.

At the tea the Rev. F. C. Bayliss voiced a warm vote of thanks to Mr. Gerald Grey (the hon. excursion secretary) for all the trouble he had taken.

LULLINGTON, ORCHARDLEIGH, WITHAM FRIARY, AND BECKINGTON ABBEY.

MONDAY, JULY 18TH, 1921.

About 70 members availed themselves of this excursion, the weather being very fine and warm. The members found plenty to interest them at the Norman church of Lullington. The Vicar (the Hon. and Rev. H. N. Waldegrave) was unfortunately away from home, and a short description of the building was given by Mr. Grey (see former visits of the Bath Branch in the Proceedings, 1906, pp. 94–95; 1913, pp. 202–203).

Following a most delightful drive through Orchardleigh Park (by kind permission of Major A. C. Duckworth), the island church of the Blessed Virgin Mary was next visited. Mr. Grey again supplied some notes on the architectural features (see former visit of the Bath Branch in the Proceedings, 1906, pp. 93–94).

After luncheon at the George Hotel, Frome, the journey was resumed through Maiden Bradley to the village of Witham Friary, where the Norman church of St. Mary the Virgin, St. John the Baptist and All Saints' was inspected. The visitors were heartily welcomed by the Vicar (the Rev. T. F. Palmer), who said the church was one of the most interesting in the diocese of Bath and Wells. Witham, he said was the home of the great Saint Hugh, and the mother of all the Carthusian foundations in England. It was mentioned in the Domesday Survey, but it was 100 years afterwards that the importance of Witham began to appear. Owing to the murder of Thomas of Canterbury, Henry II. founded and established the Carthusians in Witham, about the year 1173. It was quite possible that King Henry thought he would pay his penance very cheaply by providing a settlement for monks there, and he gave them 5,000 acres of his land in the adjoining forest of Selwood. The first monks, 13 in number, were sent over from the Grande Chartreuse, and the Prior who accompanied them, lost heart and ran away, his successor dying of a broken heart. St. Hugh eventually took charge, and the work in connection with the settlement began to prosper, the charter of foundation being granted at Marlborough in 1182. During the few years he remained at Witham, Bishop Hugh was instrumental in having church buildings erected for the monks, and at the Dissolution the property was bestowed on the Hopton family.

The registers of the present building date from the year

1615, and the Vicar said it was generally agreed that the walls, which were of immense thickness, were the casing walls of a much earlier church—probably the domus interior of the Priory. Having referred to the enormities perpetuated by Pastor Festing, nearly 100 years ago, which included the erection of an ugly tower at the west end, an enormous organ which nearly filled the chancel, and a lean-to vestry on the outside of the church, the Vicar said the church was afterwards restored and enlarged and the tower removed, under the direction of Sir Gilbert Scott. Attention was called to the beautiful double piscina, the only remaining relic of the rood screen, the apse containing a turret for the sanctus bell, and the artistic and interesting windows in the chancel, etc.

Before leaving, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. T. F. Palmer for his kindness.

The visitors were hospitably entertained to tea upon arrival at Beckington Abbey, by kind invitation of the owner, Mrs. Blackwood, and they afterwards availed themselves of the opportunity of inspecting the beautiful old building, which represents a perfect storehouse of antiquities. Most of the architecture and decoration is of Tudor, Elizabethan and Jacobean date, but portions are older and exhibit distinct traces of the original monastic character of the building.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Blackwood, upon the motion of the Rev. F. C. Bayliss, and the lady hostess said it had been a great pleasure to her to entertain the members of the Society.

The successful organisation of Mr. Grey was also acknowledged by Mr. H. W. Ingham.

The return journey was made via Hinton Charterhouse and Midford, Bath being reached shortly after 7 o'clock.

HENBURY AND WESTBURY-ON-TRYM.

Monday, September 19th, 1921.

There was a full muster of members at the fifth excursion of the Society, and fine weather favoured the proceedings. The journey was made via Keynsham and Bristol from Bath, and returning through Filton, Frenchay and Bitton.

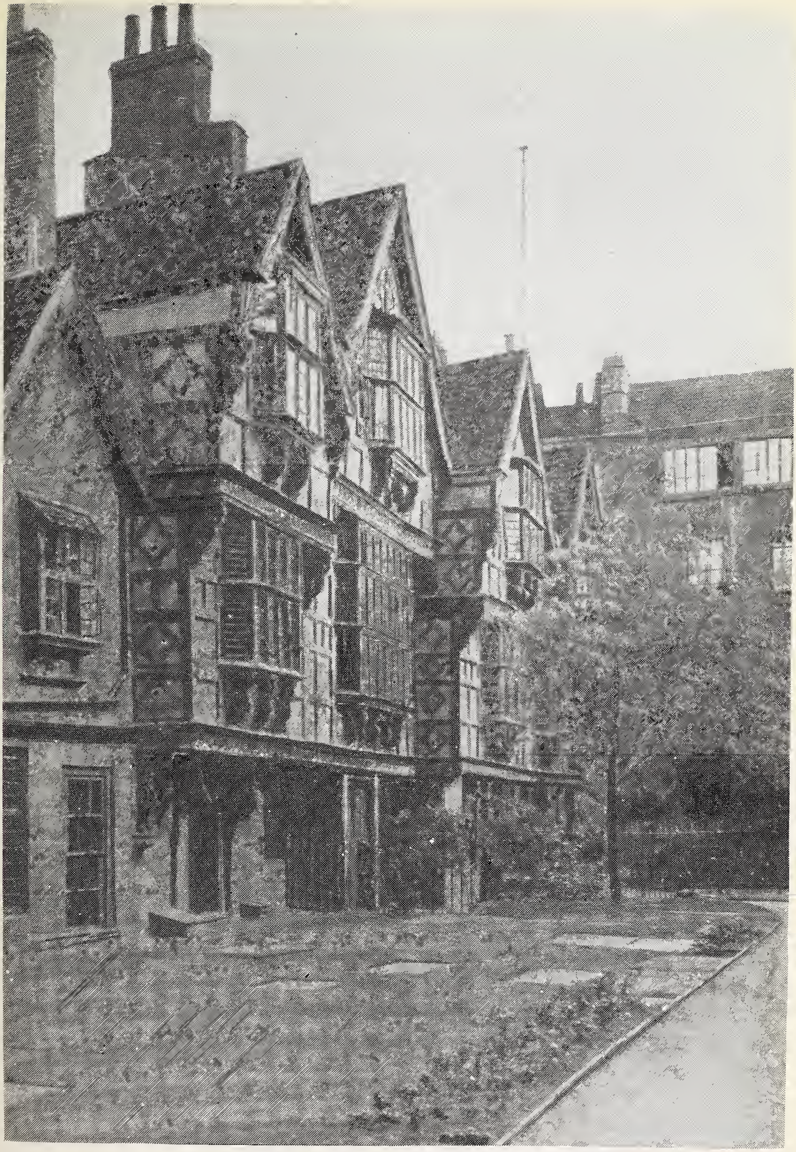
The first halt was made at Westbury-on-Trym, where the members were met by the Vicar (the Rev. Dr. H. J. Wilkins), who extended a hearty welcome to them, remarking that the people of Wessex did not always come in so friendly a way to the kingdom of Mercia. Westbury was the earliest portion of the district that was inhabited. Westbury was a place of ecclesiastical importance when Bristol was an undrained swamp. It was historically a much more important place. Bristol Cathedral was an upstart as compared with his church; the Dean and Chapter were not half so important as himself and his curates, who were Dean and Canons in early days. Bristol Cathedral dated from Henry VIII., whereas at Westbury the Bishop of Worcester owned lands in 692—Bristol was in the diocese of Worcester right up to the time of the Reformation—King Ethelbert having granted land to the second Bishop of Worcester at Henbury in 692. The first church was founded about 715, and there was at that time no church between Westbury and Bath. The first historical date was 804, when Ethelric produced at a synod a deed of heirship to land at "Westymynster." The next date was 824, when there was a tremendous row between the Bishop of Worcester and the Saxon family of Berkeley, who claimed it. The title of the Bishop was upheld, and the oath which completed this settlement, was taken 30 days afterwards by 50 mass priests, 10 deacons, and 100 ordained clerks, the biggest gathering of clergy in those early days. Perhaps the most important event in the history of Westbury was the coming of the Benedictines. It was in this little village that the long struggle between the regular and secular clergy began, which gradually spread over England and continued with varying success till, finally, the seculars permanently established themselves. In 961 St. Oswald, Bishop of Worcester, brought to Westbury 12 monks, under Germanus and Eadnoth, from the Benedictine Abbey of Fleury, in France, to test whether their practices would be suitable for this country, and the experiment was eminently successful. Germanus with his monks was afterwards removed to the newly-founded Abbey of Ramsy. They were very proud that the experiment had been made at Westbury, though the Westbury house after their departure gradually declined, and at the time of the Conquest only one solitary priest remained.

1093 In 1903 Bishop Wolfstan, second of that name, restored the monastic buildings, and reinstated the monks. Westbury was made a collegiate church before 1194, with a Dean and five Canons, remaining at that number despite the Bishop's abortive attempt to increase the number until Bishop Carpenter enlarged it about 1455. There were many distinguished names on the foundation: John de Stretford, who subsequently became Archbishop of Canterbury, was Dean in 1316, and William of Edington became Dean in 1335. He was afterwards Chancellor (and debased the coinage), and was consecrated Bishop of Winchester in 1346, the cathedral of which city he commenced building. His great work was taking up the little yeoman, William of Wykeham, founder of Winchester School and New College, Oxford. John Wycliffe was the greatest name connected with Westbury-on-Trym, the "morning star of the Reformation." He was Prebend of Aust from 1362 to 1384. In 1366 Wycliffe was delated to the Bishop for neglect of the duties of his prebend at Aust—his excuse was the Black Death. John Trevisa, whose name was well known in connection with English literature and a possible translation of the Bible—Cardinal Gasquet had searched for it at the Vatican and elsewhere, but had not succeeded in tracing it—was Canon of Westbury about 1389. In 1444 Bishop Carpenter, a Westbury boy, formerly Provost of Oriel and Chancellor of Oxford, was appointed Bishop of Worcester. He took the keenest interest in the church and college; he rebuilt the church exactly as it stood now, except the south aisle, removed the college to a new site, and raised the church to the rank of cathedral, styling himself Bishop of Worcester and Westbury. He was buried at his own wish beneath the high altar, and when he (Dr. Wilkins) became vicar he found Bishop Carpenter's tomb used as a stoke hole, the worst piece of desecration he knew. Next in importance was William Canynges, the younger, one of the merchant princes of Bristol, and five times Mayor and twice M.P. for the city; his name is famous through the zeal he displayed in the restoration of St. Mary Redcliff. He retired from the world in 1467, and became Dean of Westbury in 1469. After the Dissolution the manor with the college was granted to Sir Ralph Sadlier, a minister to the King and custodian of Mary Queen of Scots. After the Dissolution Westbury steadily went down hill. During the Civil War Prince Rupert fixed his headquarters at the college, and afterwards burnt it so that it should not fall into the hands of the Parliamentary forces. Later Isaac Hobhouse, founder of the Hobhouse family, acquired the manor and rebuilt the college. He was churchwarden. The Hobhouses held the college till 1871, and it was afterwards bought by a Quaker and handed over to the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments. All that remains is a massive square tower and two small round towers and the gateway, which the members inspected.

Although a church existed from about 715, the earliest remains in the present church (which was originally dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul), date from 1093, the circular columns which date from the first enlargement by St. Wulfstan. Bishop Carpenter also rebuilt the church, since when no important alterations have been made. It consists of an apsidal chancel, sloping to the south, clerestoried nave of four bays, north and south aisles each with a small chantry, rood stair turrets (built outside the church), south porch and tower.

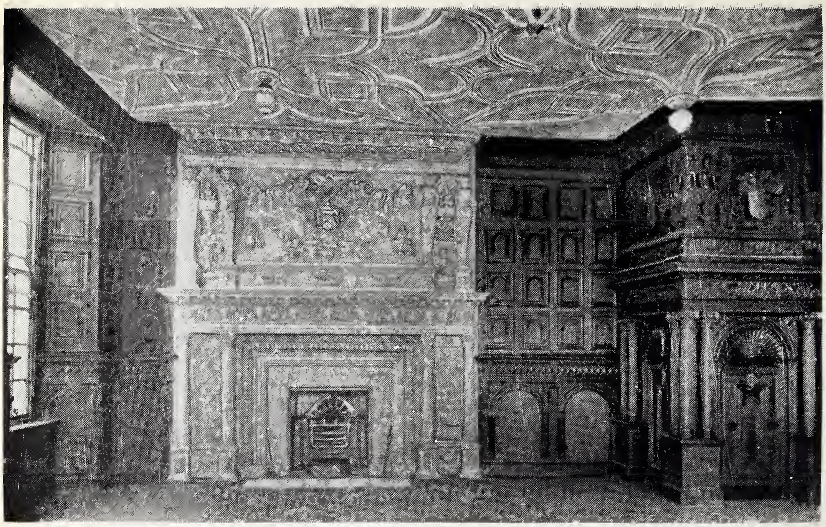
The Church of St. Mary, Henbury, which was visited after tea at Henbury Court Hotel, is equally old, but far less is known of its history. Although there is reason to suppose a Saxon church existed, no trace of it can be found, and the first record of the building is in the reign of William Rufus. The Norman church, it is believed, stood upon the site of the present nave without arches or pillars. Between 1175 and 1200, at the time of the Crusades, the nave pillars were built, low arches with narrow windows added, and the old Norman walls removed. In the 13th Century the enlargement of the Norman choir followed, and some time in the 15th Century a fine high arch was built, the walls of the aisles raised, and the present aisle windows built. Mr. Street's very careful restoration was begun in 1875, and few probably realised, said the Vicar (the Rev. C. P. Way), that the beautiful church they now saw lay hidden behind the lath and plaster and the square high pews. The pillars were interesting ; the crimson glow was unmistakable evidence of a fire in the church, of which they had no other testimony. Mr. Way pointed out the magnificent slope of the chancel to the north, and mentioned that the architect was emphatic that the common theory that these slopes were according to the builder's idea as to which way Our Lord's head hung on the Cross was entirely without foundation. Henbury was one of the two finest examples of a sweep to the north. If he lived to 1930 added Mr. Way, members of his family would have been vicars of Henbury for 100 years. His grandfather was appointed in 1810, and was vicar for 30 years, his father, Canon Way, was vicar 46 years, and he had succeeded his father.

A ramble through Henbury, under the guidance of Mr. Way, formed a fascinating part of the programme, for Henbury is a beautiful spot, whether one visits the Vicarage grounds, with the quaint tunnel under the drive, built in the thirties to preserve the public right of way across, and yet keep the grounds private, the present Blaise Castle house, the old-world garden that was once the Manor House, the famous woods or the little group of tenants' houses, built in 1810, forerunner of the model village schemes of to-day. Henbury is a village of great houses that have gone. Of the old Great



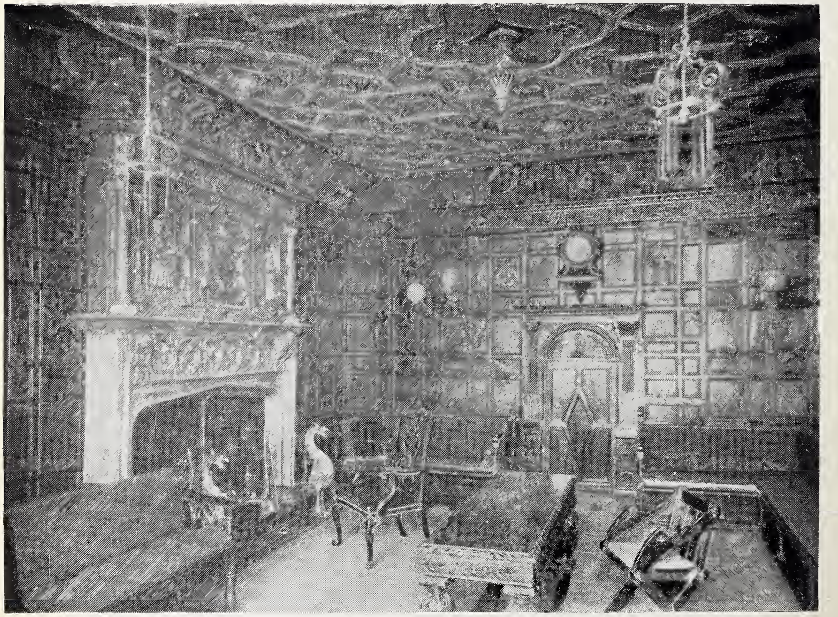
[*Photo, Fred Little.*

ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL, BRISTOL.



[Photo, F. Bromhead, Clifton.

INTERIOR OF THE RED LODGE, BRISTOL.



[Photo supplied by Mr. J. J. Simpson.

INTERIOR OF ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL, BRISTOL.

House, on Henbury hill, in which Lord Suffolk lived, not a stone remains ; of the Manor House, all that exists is the site and a pool that was probably once the cellars, and the houses that exist are empty, Blaise Castle, the property of Major J. C. Harford, whose family has connections with Bath, and a fine house overlooking the Severn, while Henbury Court is now an hotel.

Before leaving Colonel Leigh voiced the thanks of the members to Mr. Way for his kindness in showing them his beautiful church and village. Bath was reached at 7 o'clock.

BRISTOL.

Tuesday, October 18th, 1921.

An extra excursion was arranged to Bristol, when 46 members went by motor char-a-bancs. The weather proved sunny and warm. By permission of the vicar (the Rev. J. N. Bateman Champain), the church of St. Mary, Redcliffe was first inspected. (See former visit of the Bath Branch in the proceedings for 1911, page 98, etc., for detailed account of St. Mary Redcliffe.)

A visit was next paid to St. Peters Hospital (by permission of the Board of Guardians), where the members were welcomed by Mr. J. J. Simpson. (See former visit of the Bath Branch in the proceedings for 1905 for detailed account of St. Peter's Hospital.)

After luncheon at Fortt's Restaurant, members proceeded to the Museum and Art Gallery, under the guidance of Mr. Herbert Bolton, director, who kindly explained the Natural History Section, whilst Mr. Charbonnier, an authority on Bristol pottery, pointed out the many rare specimens which were to be seen in the tastefully arranged cases.

The Red Lodge.

The great treat of the day was the visit to the Red Lodge in Park Row, a house of extraordinary interest. There is what is believed to be internal evidence that the Red Lodge is built upon a section of the Carmelite Friary, erected by Edward I, which covered an area from St. Augustine's back to the foot of St. Michael's Hill. Upon the dissolution the Friary property passed into the hands of the Corporation, and it was purchased by Sir John Young in February, 1568, and he at once proceeded to construct an imposing mansion he called the Great House, which afforded fitting accommodation for Queen Elizabeth and her numerous suite during her week's sojourn in the city. Early in the 18th Century the Great House was sold to Edward Colston, the great Bristol philanthropist, who therein established his school, removed to Stapleton in 1861. The house was then demolished to make way for the Colston Hall. Sir John Young in 1578 purchased additional land to improve the surroundings of his Great House, and built a garden or prospect house—fitting term because of the fine views then obtainable—the present Red Lodge. He died in 1589 before it was finished. The house passed through many hands. For some time it was a ladies' school. Dr. James Cowle Pritchard, the famous ethnologist, wrote his " Natural History of Man " there, and in 1854 Lady Byron, widow of the poet, purchased the property in order to provide Miss Mary Carpenter with a building in which she could establish a reformatory for girls, the first of its kind in the country. When the school was about to be closed in 1919, Alderman James Fuller Eberle purchased the property, with the help of his friends, with the two-fold purpose of making a home for the Bristol Savages and to afford his fellow citizens the opportunity of enjoying the glories of the historic building, and under the direction of Mr. C. F. F. Denning, a complete scheme of restoration was carried out, which was not finished till April, 1920.

The society were most warmly welcomed by Mr. F. George Swaish, the president of the Savages. Mr. H. E. Roslyn, the hon. secretary, and Alderman J. Fuller Eberle, who has taken so generous a share in the whole scheme. They were hospitably entertained by the Bristol Savages to an admirably served tea in the Wigwam, a new clubroom, most artistically furnished, and filled with treasures, trophies and pictures by the Savages. While the members sat at tea, Mr. Roslyn outlined the history of the Red Lodge in a happy and interesting speech, explaining that the Bristol Savages were a colony of artists who met for work, interchange of ideas, and social intercourse with others in sympathy with their aspirations. Afterwards the rest of the Red Lodge was inspected. The glory of the house is the old oak room, which was commenced in 1595 and is complete in every way with the original oak panelling, the original plaster ceiling, which had been hidden by repeated costs of whitewash, the original stone fireplace, a fine example, and to a large extent the original floor. The lobby is a gem of skilful carving, a beautiful piece of work, and the whole is the envy of collectors, and especially American visitors. A lesser oak room, the reception room with stone frieze, and a fine collection of old furniture, were noted.

Mr. Fuller Eberle, Mr. Roslyn, and the Savages were warmly thanked, and in his reply Mr. Fuller Eberle said he was extremely sorry Mr. Thomas Bush had not been able to accompany them. They were very old friends, and he had rowed in the crew of which Mr. Bush was stroke at Saltford many years ago. Bath was reached at 6 o'clock.

LECTURES, 1921.

NORTHUMBRIAN CROSSES.

On Saturday, February 19th, the first lecture of the year was given at the Literary and Scientific Institution by Mr. George Norman, F.S.A.I., on Northumbrian Crosses. As with his previous lectures it was well illustrated by lantern slides and was evidently much appreciated by the large audience present. Colonel E. Clayton was in the Chair.

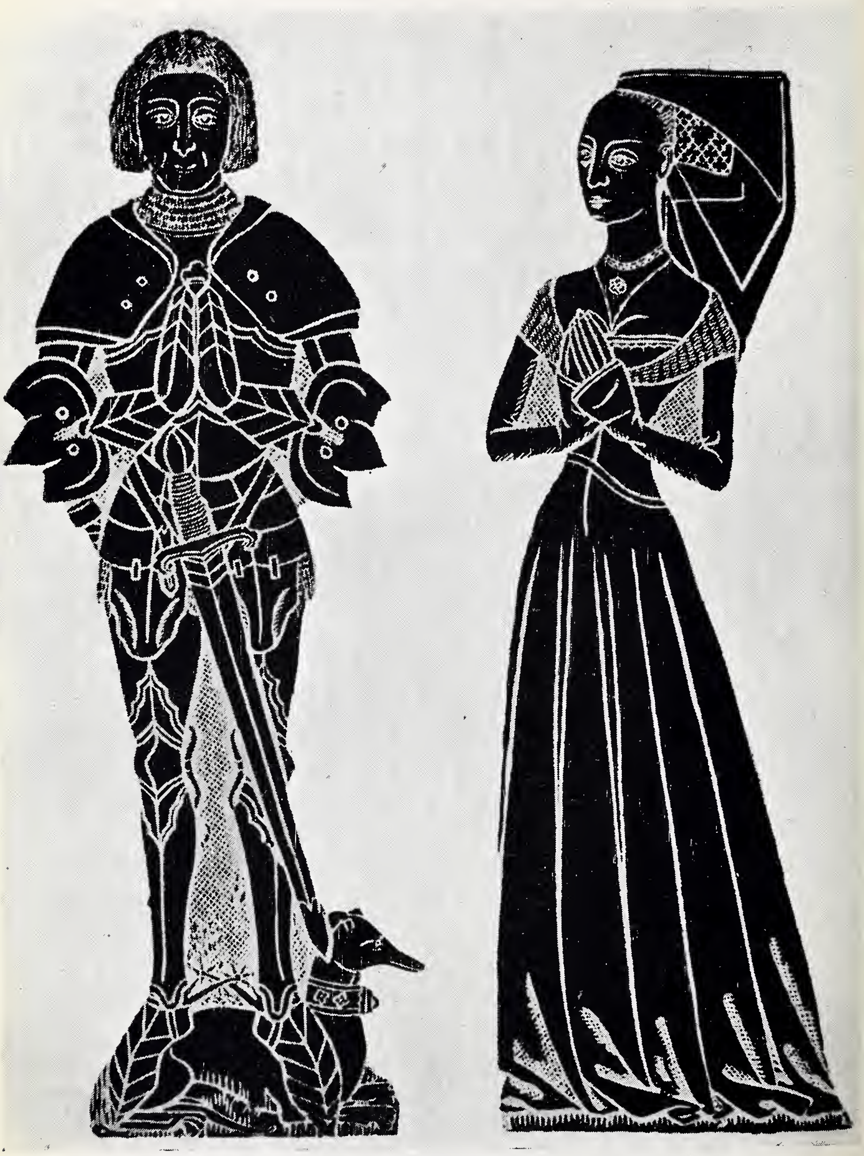
Mr. Norman said that Northumbrian Crosses might be divided into two groups, Celtic and Anglo-Saxon, and since he had already lectured to them on the former branch, he would confine himself to the subject of Anglo-Saxon Crosses, the Anglo-Saxons being a race with far greater artistic perceptions than was often imagined. Mr. Norman dealt briefly with a phase of Northumbrian history following the Anglo-Saxon conquest, telling how Edwin became a Christian King and how his defeat by the heathens under Penda was avenged by his son Oswald, who set up a rough wooden cross at which his army prayed before the battle. This was the first-known Anglo-Saxon Cross. Later King Oswi brought a missionary to the country to reconvert its inhabitants to Christianity, and finally the famous Lindisfarne Priory was built on Holy Island. The lecturer showed pictures of many of the crossed stones found in that locality, the earliest ones rather crudely designed, while later the more classical key pattern was introduced, and finally human figures. He next showed Crosses preserved in Durham Cathedral library, many with fine interlacing work, though the figures were poorly designed. Oswald's Cross was shown, and examples of dragonesque work, and also a Cross on which ballusters were found, a very rare occurrence. Now transferring to Hexham Abbey, Mr. Norman told how remains of Wilfrid's Church were found beneath the Abbey Church, some fragments being extremely interesting as showing representations of birds, animals, and fruit. How was this to be accounted for? There were two theories, one that Wilfrid, who spent some time at Rome, being dissatisfied with Anglican art, imported Italian sculptors to decorate his church; the other, that the proximity of the Roman wall, with its elaborate carving, suggested these designs to the inhabitants of Northumbria. The famous Acca Cross was described which, though much damaged, showed traces of great beauty and had been a model for many others which belonged to the "Hexham School." Several were carved with the vine, the earliest device of Christian art, and later birds and animals were introduced. The Bewcastle Cross, glory of the Anglican school, had stood in its present position for 1,200 years. This was set up to commemorate a victory gained by Alfrith, son of Oswi, and bore an interesting sundial, divided into canonical hours. Of the same period was the Ruthwell Cross, which was thrown down in consequence of an Act passed in Scotland in 1642, but had now been repaired as far as possible. It bore one of the finest effigies of the Christ known in sculpture, and also a portion of a poem, "The Dream of the Holy Rood," which poem, written in Anglo-Saxon, had been discovered in an Italian library. Summing up, the conclusion at which they arrived was this, that though influenced from the East by continental art, and from the West by Hibernian art, the Anglo-Saxons yet developed a style of their own, fully equal to standing alone, and deserving the title of Anglican art.

Colonel Clayton proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Norman for his interesting lecture and for the very beautiful slides he had shown.

ON THE CRAFT OF THE ENGLISH MEDIÆVAL MASONS.

An extremely interesting and instructive lecture, illustrated by a large number of excellent lantern slides, on the above subject was given by Mr. J. E. Barton, headmaster of the Bristol Grammar School, at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Tuesday, November 15th. The Lecturer was introduced by Lieut.-Col. H. P. P. Leigh, who said they were grateful to anybody who would take them away for an hour from the sordid happenings of the present day.

Mr. Barton spoke of the transformation from the Romanesque to the Gothic styles of architecture, and illustrated the types of churches built during the 12th and 13th Centuries. A diagram was shown to indicate the vault of a Gothic church, and Mr. Barton observed that the art of making that vault a perfect thing, so that its "thrust" and weight fell only on certain portions of the wall, was only acquired by long experience, during which some 7,000 churches were built in England. The Gothic builders so worked that although they built upwards, their results were to be studied, as it were, downwards, and the Angel Choir at Lincoln might be regarded as the consummation of English Gothic art. A special series of slides illustrated this point. The Angel Choir was not in reality a choir—it was a great reliquary built for the shrine of St. Hugh of Lincoln. The work was expressive of the individual craftsmen of the time—there was nothing mechanical about it; they had the same nervous, expressive feeling in it all as in the lines drawn by an individual master painter; and there were thousands of craftsmen engaged in the perfection of the work. An illustrated " backward glance on leaving the Angel Choir " suggested the sense of mystery, which Gothic art achieved, but it must not be thought that the builders aimed at twilight. Light, and more light, was on the contrary their object. The eastern exterior of this work, though admirable, showed several structural insincerities implying the human weakness for a good facade, whether it entirely represented the true building or no. Of a rather later period—toward the end of the 13th Century, was the Chapter House of Southwell, in Nottinghamshire. Herein was illustrated the remarkable foliage sculpture, the lecturer remarking that as the building was in charge of secular canons, it escaped many of the troubles consequent upon the dissolution of the monasteries. The resourcefulness of the mediæval masons was shown in the Benedictine Abbey at Gloucester. When fire destroyed the timber ceiling of the nave, the masons were confronted with the problem of putting a stone vault over the great Norman nave. What they did was to raise the clerestory and insert the " springers " on which they constructed their new Gothic vault. Some of the early English decorative work was illustrated, attention being directed to the " stiff-leaved " foliage with its " thrust " and tension. He proceeded to show how another difficulty—an outward bulging wall on the south side of the nave—was met by constructing external buttresses, enclosing a superb suite of delicately traceried windows, attention being drawn to the " ball-flower " decoration of the Edward II. period. It was at Gloucester that what was known as the Perpendicular style of church architecture was invented. Pictures were shown to illustrate the " divine sham " of fan-vaulting in the Cloister, and also in the Lavatorium. The Lady Chapel, added toward the end of the 15th Century, illustrated the saying that the perfect Gothic building, in the engineering sense, had no walls at all, but consisted of a vault held up by



J. St. Maur and Wife.

BECKINGTON.

buttresses, the space between the buttresses being filled up with glass, which, with its original jewelled colouring, would look more solid. The lecturer discussed the modification undergone in the mouldings over a period of years, illustrating his remarks with pictures. He showed how, from about 1290 to 1300 there was a remarkable " side step " toward naturalisation in foliage sculpture, but by the 15th Century, the foliage was mostly conventional and " shop-carved." He compared the severe and restrained work of English mediæval masons with the tortuous intricacies of church architecture in Rouen and Milan, and advanced the opinion that the English mediæval craftsmen were entitled to rank among the greatest of all the peoples with which history dealt.

The Chairman drew the practical lesson for modern time that there was " a great deal of good in old England, and if we rely upon ourselves more we shall do wisely."

The Rev. C. W. Shickle, master of St. John's Hospital, expressed the thanks of the gathering to the lecturer. The latter was asked the probable date of the vaulting in Bath Abbey, and replied that it was later than the work of which he had been speaking. Probably it was slightly before the date of the dissolution of the monasteries, for " fan-vaulting " went on developing even into the Tudor period.

NOTES ON BRASSES IN CHURCHES (ILLUSTRATED) AT BECKINGTON, CIRENCESTER AND ST. MARY REDCLIFFE, BRISTOL.

Mr. H. Parry.

Beckington.

The Church of St. Gregory has two or three small brasses showing merchant marks, etc., but only one showing the figures of the persons commemorated. The memorial to John St. Maur and his wife is in the floor of the choir, but the lady, who after the death of her first husband, married Sir John Biconyll, is buried elsewhere. The figures are about two feet high, and the gentleman is shown bare headed, but otherwise in full armour, with his feet resting on a greyhound. The heavy pieces protecting shoulders and elbows, and the fingerless gauntlets, with their long cuffs, are typical of the armour of the Wars of the Roses, which came to an end at the battle of Bosworth in 1485, the year in which St. Maur died. His wife is shown in a dress cut very low, showing the corsage. She wears a necklace with pendant, and the "butterfly" head-dress composed of flimsy material stretched on wires, which looks very clumsy and heavy as engraved, however becoming it may have been in real life. There is no inscription.

BRISTOL.

In the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, there are four brasses, two of which are illustrated. The other two are memorials of Sir John Juyn, a judge, and John Brook, Sergeant-at-Law, and judge of Assize.

I.

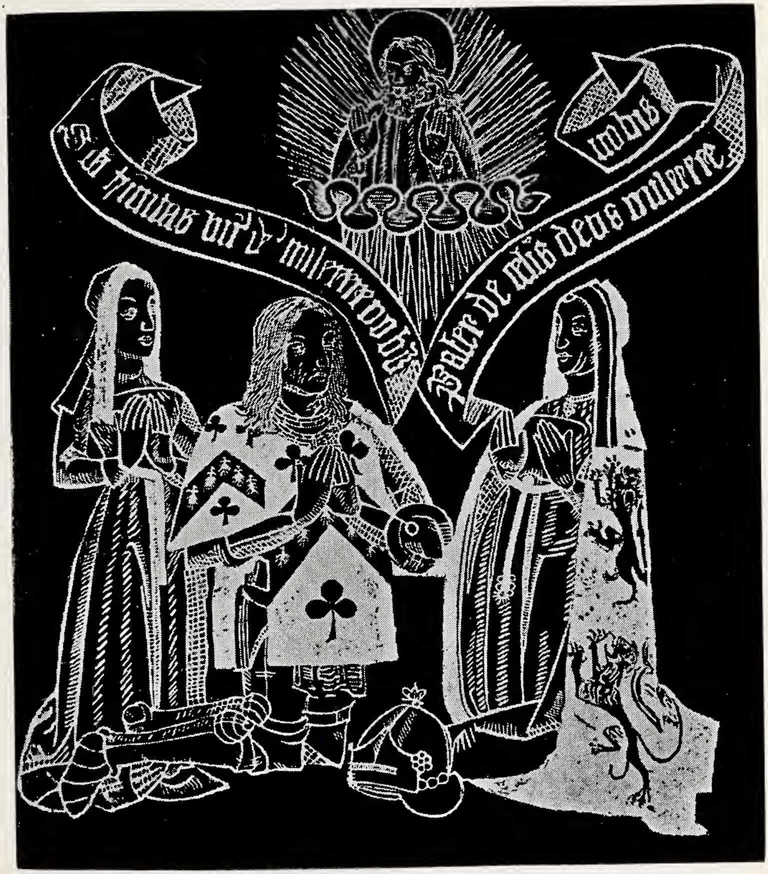
The brass of Sir Philip Mede is on the north wall of the chancel, under the canopy of an altar tomb, and in an oblong plate about 22 inches high. Sir Philip was Mayor of Bristol in 1458, 1461 and 1468. He is shown dressed in armour, over which he wears a tabard displaying his arms : Gules, a chevron ermine, between three trefoils slipped argent. One of the wives wears an heraldic mantle, showing two (of three) double-tailed lions rampant, but her name is unknown. Over the figures are two scrolls inscribed :—

> Sancta Trinitas, unus deus miserere nobis
> Pater de Celis deus miserere nobis

This is rather an early example of the proper tabard, the first of them being in a brass in Cumberland, dated 1458, but later on they became rather common. Above the scrolls is a half-length figure of the Diety, surrounded with clouds and rays.

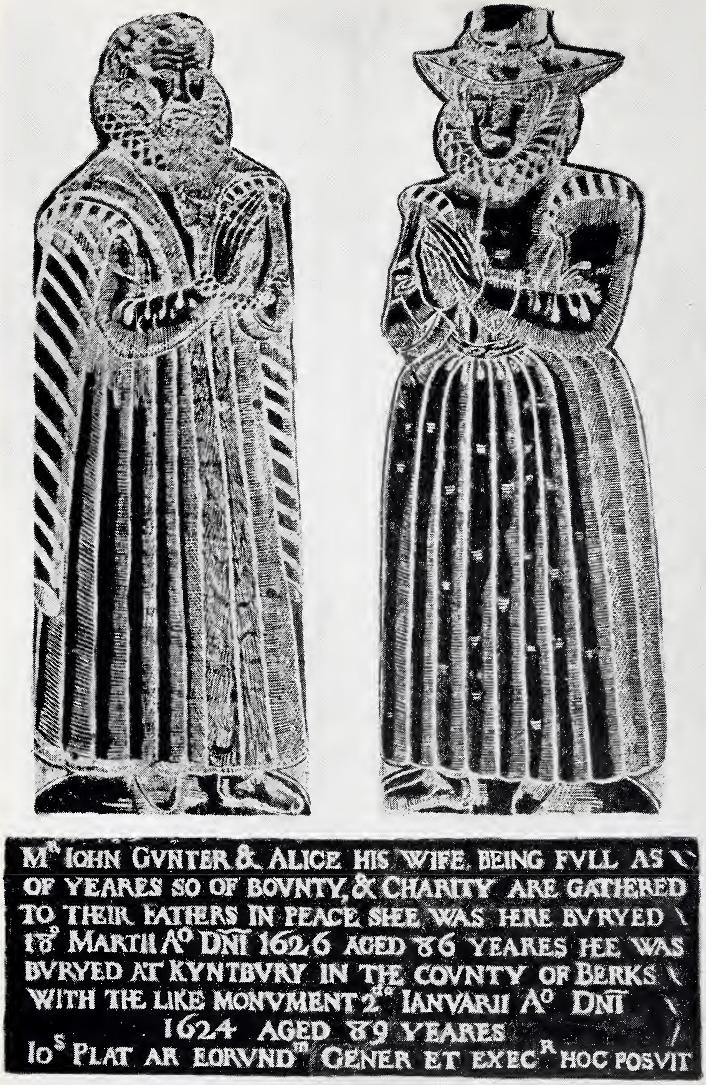
II.

In the floor of the choir are two figures, two feet nine inches high, of John Jay, formerly Sheriff of Bristol, and his wife. They stand under a fine groined canopy, and underneath is shown their family of the eight daughters, the five wearing the "butterfly" head-dress, were presumably married at the date of the monument, and the others with round caps and long hair, unmarried. Of the four shields two show the merchant mark, and the other two an object which is supposed by some to be a winnowing fan, and by others with greater probability, to be a teasel, indicating his connection with the cloth trade. In the inscription is a blank left for the date of his death, which occurred about 1480.


Sca trinitas un' d' miserere nobis
Pater de celis deus miserere
nobis

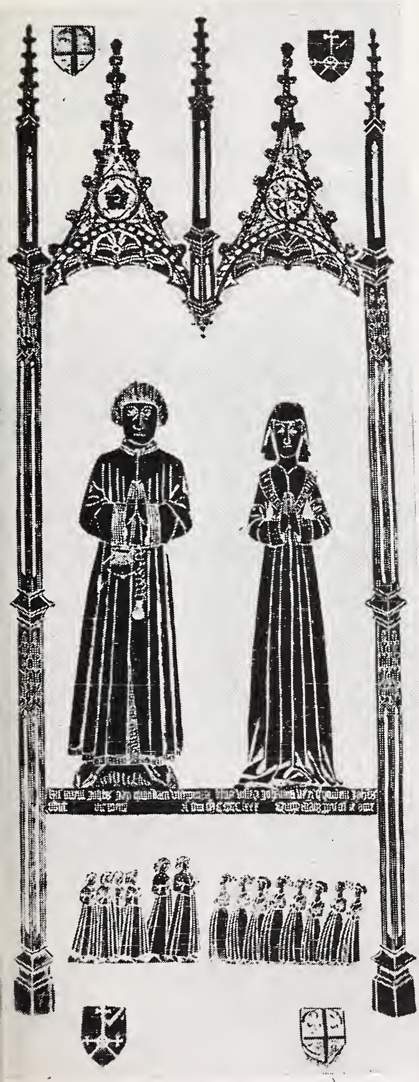
Philip Mead.

ST. MARY, REDCLIFFE.

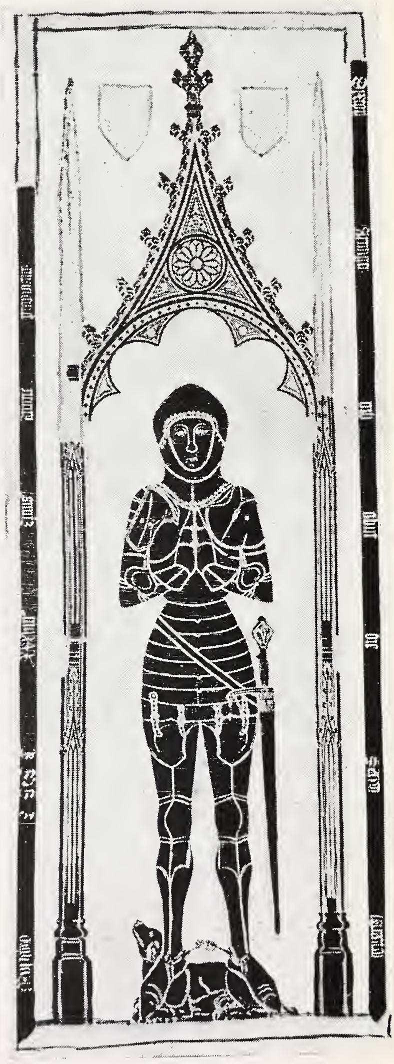


M^{r} IOHN GVNTER & ALICE HIS WIFE BEING FVLL AS
OF YEARES SO OF BOVNTY & CHARITY ARE GATHERED
TO THEIR FATHERS IN PEACE SHEE WAS HERE BVRYED
18^{o} MARTII A^{o} DNI 1626 AGED 86 YEARES HEE WAS
BVRYED AT KYNTBVRY IN THE COVNTY OF BERKS
WITH THE LIKE MONVMENT 2do IANVARII A^{o} DNI
1624 AGED 89 YEARES
IO^{S} PLAT AR EORVND^{m} GENER ET EXEC^{R} HOC POSVIT

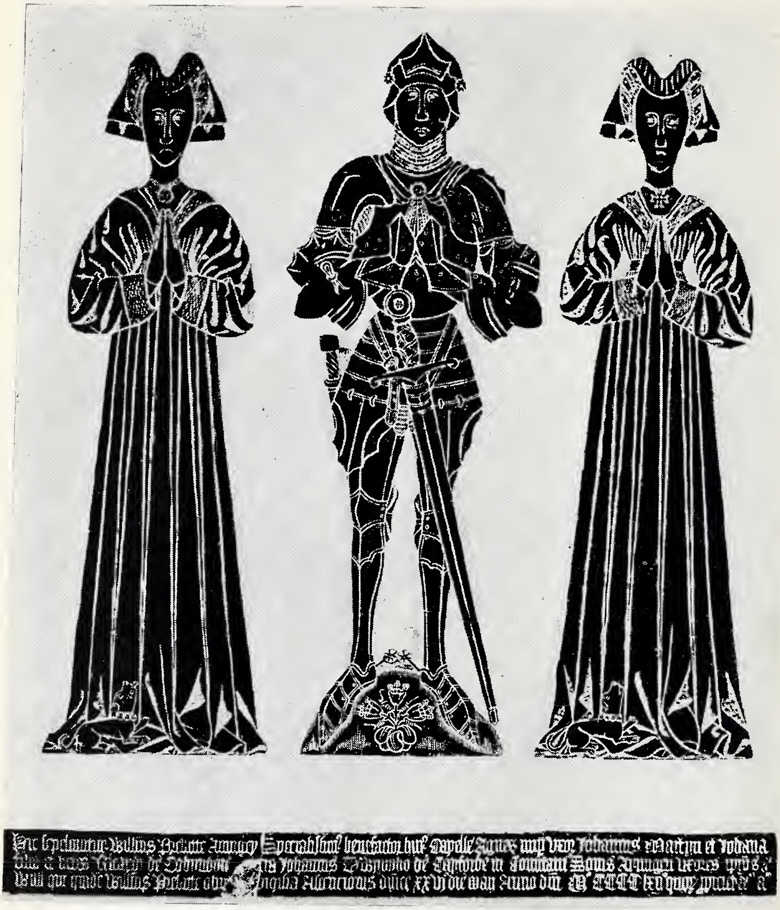
CIRENCESTER.



John Jay.
ST. MARY, REDCLIFFE.



Richard Dinton.
CIRENCESTER.



William Prelatte.

CIRENCESTER.

CIRENCESTER.

There are many brasses in the Church of St. John the Baptist, some of which are considerably mutilated. Three examples are selected for illustration, as being, perhaps, the most interesting for various reasons.

I.

Richard Dixton, who died in 1438, is said to have been an esquire to the Duke of York. His brass is a large one, the figure itself being four and a half feet long, while the total length is over seven feet. He is shown standing under a canopy which, like the marginal inscription round it, is somewhat mutilated, in full plate armour, which a few years before had completely superseded the mixture of mail and plate which was in vogue at the beginning of the century. He wears a close-fitting bascinet and gorget, both with ornamental edges, and while his left shoulder is protected by a pauldron, his right is protected by an apparently movable moton fixed in front of the armpit. The long skirt of taces which had been in use for some time, has two tuilles strapped to the bottom, as an additional protection to the upper part of the thigh—a comparatively recent innovation. In Rudder's "History of Cirencester" it is said that the marginal inscription originally ran as follows:—

> (Hic jacet Richardus) Dixton Armiger cui obiit die Sancti Laurencii (martyris anno domini) Millesimo CCCC° xxviij° Cuius anime propicietur (de' amen).

The words in brackets are now missing. His arms shown on the hilt of his sword are: Sable, a pile argent, surmounted by a chevron gules.

II.

The figures of William Prelatte and his two wives, all about three feet long, are, like that of Richard Dixton, in the floor of the Trinity Chapel, of which Prelatte himself was a distinguished benefactor. He died in 1465, and his armour differs entirely from Dixton's, and approaches much more nearly to the armour of the Beckington example. As in that case the pauldrons are heavy, that on the left shoulder being ridged, the elbow pieces are large, and the sword is worn in front of the body, but the skirt of taces is like Dixton's, made apparently of hoops divided horizontally only, while the Beckington figure has these hoops sub-divided vertically, so that they seem to be made up of oblong plates, an arrangement which would presumably give greater freedom of movement. He also wears a " Salade " helmet, with the vizor up, and his gauntlets are curious, displaying not only the cuffs, and plate protecting the back of the hand, but also an inner fingered glove of mail. The two wives are in high-necked dresses, trimmed with fur at the neck and wrists, and they wear necklaces and the "horned" form of head-dress. The inscription records the burial of Prelatte and of his two wives, Agnes, widow of John Martyn, and Johanna, daughter and heiress of Richard de Cobyndon, and widow of John Twynho, of Cayford, and the death of Prelatte, 27th May, 1465.

III.

The figures of Mr. and Mrs. John Gunter are two feet high, and the brass is under a mat in the aisle of the Lady Chapel. Both were born in the reign of Henry VIII., and the old gentleman just pre-deceased James I., while the lady outlived him and did not die till Charles I. was on the throne, having lived under six sovereigns. In the earlier brasses the faces were merely conventional, but the portraiture in this late specimen is obvious. The duplicate in Berkshire still exists.

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AND
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1910 Nash Mrs., 7, Laura Place.
1912 Newham Miss, 11, Raby Place, Bathwick.
1903 *Norman George, Esq., F.S.A.I., 12, Brock Street.
1907 Norman Mrs., 12, Brock Street.
1913 Norman Miss, Oakfield, Weston Park.
1919 Nowell Mrs., 1, Catharine Place.
1921 Nowlan Colonel, The Lodge, Batheaston.
1921 Nowlan Mrs., The Lodge, Batheaston.

1917 O'Sullivan Dr., Glencairn, Bathwick.
1918 O'Sullivan Miss, Glencairn, Bathwick.

1912 Parry Hubert, Esq., 28, Newbridge Hill
1920 Parry Mrs. H., 28, Newbridge Hill.
1920 Peirse Lady, Fiesole, Bathwick Hill.
1913 Perkes Rev. R. M., 39, Combe Park.
1913 Phillimore J. E., Esq., Sedgley, Sion Road.
1921 Phillips Miss, Woodside, Bathford.
1921 Phillips Miss M. L., Woodside, Bathford.
1904 Pitcairn Rev. D. Lee, M.A., 1, Laura Place.

1904 Pitcairn Mrs., 1, Laura Place.
1911 Pitt Mrs., South Stoke House, South Stoke.
1921 Pitt Miss, South Stoke House, South Stoke.
1913 Powell Rev. W. H., D.D., 15, Lansdown Crescent.
1911 Powell Mrs. W. H., 15, Lansdown Crescent.
1915 Powell Mrs., 12, Rivers Street.
1920 Pritchard Miss E., Combe Royal, Bathwick.
1907 Pryce Ernest, Esq., 10, Cavendish Crescent.
1906 Pryce Mrs., 10, Cavendish Crescent.

1920 Quinton John, Esq., Culvort Rise, 11, Junction Road.

1921 Rattray H. M., Esq., Montrose, Weston Park.
1921 Rattray Mrs., Montrose, Weston Park.
1909 Rodman Miss, 17, The Tyning.
1903 Rolleston Colonel V., Saltford House, Bristol (Deceased).
1903 Rolleston S. V., Esq., B.C.L., M.A., Saltford House, Bristol.
1914 Rose Mrs. H. Fullwood, 93, Sydney Place.
1920 Rowe Colonel Octavius, 4, Royal Crescent.
1920 Rowe Mrs., 4, Royal Crescent.

1904 Salmon Miss E. E., 26, Hawthorn Grove, Combe Down.
1904 Salmon Miss L. M., 26, Hawthorn Grove, Combe Down.
1920 Sartoris Miss, 31, St. James's Square.
1903 *Scott M. H., Esq., 5, Lansdown Place, West.
1921 Scott Miss, 5, Lansdown Place, West.
1919 *Scratton Arthur Esq., Woodleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1920 Scratton Mrs., Woodleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1915 Segar Edward, Esq., Bella Vista, Lansdown.
1920 Severs Miss E., 17, Marlborough Buildings.
1920 Severs Miss A., 17, Marlborough Buildings.
1918 *Shickle Rev. C. W., F.S.A., 9, Cavendish Crescent.
1907 Shum F. E., Esq., 24, Sydney Buildings.
1920 Singers-Bigger Miss Gladys, 12, Marlborough Buildings
1920 Sonnenschein E. A., Esq., 5, Sion Hill Place.
1920 Sonnenschein Mrs., 5, Sion Hill Place.
1903 Spender Miss, 8, Forester Road.
1921 Spottiswood Mrs., 2, Sion Hill Place.
1920 Start Miss, 21, Rivers Street.
1921 Stothert Lady, 1, Lansdown Place, West.
1903 Strachie Lord, Sutton Court, Pensford, Bristol.
1911 Straghan Mrs., 26, Crescent Gardens.
1912 Strangways Miss R. C., 6, Brunswick Place.
1920 Street A. E., Esq., 12, Somerset Place.
1920 Street Mrs., 12, Somerset Place.

1918 Taite Miss, 30, Paragon.
1915 Tanner J. H., Esq., 12, Beaufort East.
1915 Tanner Mrs., 12, Beaufort East.
1904 Taylor A. J., Esq., 18, New Bond Street.
1921 Thackwell Brig.-General, Perrymead Cottage.
1903 *Thatcher A. A., Esq., Midsomer Norton.
1903 *Thomas C. E., Esq., 4, Percy Place.
1920 Thomas Miss H. T., Derwent House, Weston.
1920 Thomas Miss T., Derwent House, Weston.
1921 Thompson Miss Edith, Beaconfield, Lansdown.
1921 Thompson Miss E. Perronet, Beaconfield, Lansdown.
1920 Thring Mrs. C. B., Ormonde House, Sion Hill.

1920 Thring Miss Marjory, Ormonde House, Sion Hill.
1903 *Tite Charles, Esq., Stoneleigh, Taunton.
1921 Tucker Mrs. Allon, 9, Green Park.
1904 Tyte W., Esq., 7, Bloomfield Crescent.

1921 Varley Rev. F., Filleigh, Bathwick Hill.
1921 Varley Mrs., Filleigh, Bathwick Hill.
1921 Varley Miss, Filleigh, Bathwick Hill.
1920 Vibert Lionel, Esq., Marline, Lansdown.
1920 Vibert Mrs., Marline, Lansdown.

1914 Wace Henry, Esq., St. Winifreds.
1914 Wace Miss, St. Winifreds.
1903 *Waldegrave Right Hon. the Earl, Chewton Priory.
1913 Walker Robert, Esq., F.R.G.S.
1916 Walker W. A., Esq., 6, Percy Place.
1910 *Wardle F. D., Esq., 5, Vane Street
1920 Watson Miss A. E., Swainswick Cottage.
1904 Way Miss H. S., 1, Rosslyn Road, Newbridge Hill.
1920 Wayne Miss, 12, Bladud Buildings.
1920 Webb Mrs. Gillum, 11, Lansdown Place, East.
1903 *Whittuck E. A., Esq., 77, Audley Street, W. 1.
1917 Wilkinson Lady, Deepdene, Bathampton.
1917 Wilkinson Miss, Deepdene, Bathampton.
1904 Williams D. Prout, Esq., 7, Belvedere.
1913 Wills J. H., Esq., Potticks House, Frankleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1913 Wills Mrs., Potticks House, Frankleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1913 Wills Stanley, Esq., 14, Royal Crescent.
1913 Wills Mrs., 14, Royal Crescent.
1908 Wood Miss Ellen, 38, Combe Park.
1914 Wood Miss Margaret, 59, Combe Park.
1913 Woods John C., Esq., Bank House, Trowbridge.
1921 Woods Mrs., Bank House, Trowbridge.
1921 Wright E. M., Esq., Lower Swainswick House.

1911 Young B. W., Esq., 1, Stanley Villas, Camden Road.

The Treasurer in account with the Bath and District Branch Somerset Archæological Society for 1921.

1921.	Dr.	£	s.	d.
To	Balance from last year	125	10	4
,,	230 Members' Subscriptions	57	10	0
,,	1 ditto paid for 1922	0	5	0
,,	Sale of Proceedings	0	19	0
,,	Haverfield Library, Oxford, Set of Proceedings	1	11	0
,,	Excursions	1	8	0
,,	Dividends on 4½% War Loan	2	5	0
		£189	8	4

1921.	Cr.				£	s.	d.
By	William Lewis & Son, Ltd., Printing and Illustrating Proceedings, 1920				38	15	0
,,	Fyson & Co., Circulars and Stationery				6	6	3
,,	William Lewis & Son, Ltd., Receipt Book, &c.				1	9	0
,,	2 Lectures—Hire of Room, Lantern and Fees				3	17	0
,,	Postages, Proceedings, Circulars, &c.				2	17	4
,,	Envelopes				0	9	6
,,	Donation National Trust ..				1	1	0
,,	Subscription, Somerset Archæological Society				1	1	0
,,	Hire of Rooms, Literary Institution				0	17	6
					56	13	7
,,	Balance 4½% War Loan	£50	0	0			
,,	,, War Certificates	38	15	0			
,,	,, L. C. Westminster and Parrs ..	43	19	9			
					132	14	9
					£189	8	4

Audited and found correct—EDWARD SEGAR,
13th December, 1921.

THOS. S. BUSH, *Hon. Treasurer.*

The cost of the Proceedings for 1921 not included in the above.

SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH

1922.

BATH:
PRINTED AT THE HERALD PRESS.

BATH AND DISTRICT BRANCH
SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

REPORT, 1922.

THE Committee are pleased to note that the number of Members have kept up, in fact there are always candidates waiting election; at present 32 are on the list, showing continued interest in the work of the Branch. Commencing the year with 229 Members, there have been 11 resignations, 4 deaths, and 3 defaulters; later in the year three Members who had paid their subscription, passed away; total losses 21; 19 have been elected, so closing the year with 227.

As usual the account of the Annual Meeting, over which Earl Waldegrave presided, will follow this Report, following that are notes on the Excursions, Lectures, and other details.

Thanks of the Committee are due to the following: To Mr. Gerald Grey for carrying out the six excursions, which were well attended and evidently proved of interest to all those who were present; To Mr. Thos. S. Bush for arranging the Lectures kindly given by Mr. George Lansdown and by the Rev. Ethelbert Horne, and a meeting by request, at the Roman Baths, when the gathering had the benefit of a discourse on the Baths by Mr. A. J. Taylor. Mr. Parry has given us the privilege of reproducing three further rubbings of brasses (they are in Fairford Church), with some notes on them. The Rev. Ethelbert Horne has favoured us with photographs illustrating his lecture.

To Mr. Gerald Grey, Mr. Lansdown, Mr. Capes and Miss Rodman we are indebted for photographs of places visited during the excursions.

We are indebted to Mr. A. T. Wicks, of Monkton Combe School, for notes on his discoveries at Limpley Stoke.

The accounts, which have been prepared by the Hon. Treasurer, and audited by Mr. Segar, will no doubt meet with approval.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Wednesday, March 8th, 1922, at 3 o'clock.

Present: Earl Waldegrave, President, in the Chair); Committee: Major-General Bradshaw, Mr. G. Lawrence Bulleid, Mr. St. D. M. Kemeys-Tynte, Lieut.-Colonel Leigh, Mr. George Norman, Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn, Mr. M. H. Scott, Mr. Edward Segar, Mr. Gerald J. Grey (Hon. Excursion Secretary), and Mr. Thos. S. Bush (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer); Mrs. C. Bird, Miss Bridgman, Miss May Bridgman, A.M.S., Mr. and Mrs. Brydges-Barrett, Rev. J. Byrchmore, Mr. R. C. Bullock, Mrs. Thos. S. Bush, Mr. P. E. Capes, Mr. G. W. Duncan, Miss Holt, Mrs. Howden, Mr. H. M. Ingham, Miss Knight, Mrs. Layton, Miss Lethbridge, Colonel Mainwaring, Miss Macrae Moir, Miss Newham, Dr. O'Sullivan, Miss K. O'Sullivan, Rev. R. M. Perkes, Miss Rodman, Miss Scott, Mr. F. E. Shum, Miss Edith Thompson, Mr. Wace, and Miss E. M. Wood.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The President having moved the adoption of the Report and Accounts, said that since their last meeting they had lost one very old friend, Colonel Clayton, who was a most energetic member of their committee, and took a great interest in their Society. They were full up as regarded Members, and the accounts seemed to him to be quite satisfactory. The President paid a tribute to the illustrations in the Proceedings of the Branch, and said that he was glad to hear from Mr. Bush that the Committee had been complimented on the interesting production. He understood that all the excursions were most satisfactory and he thought Mr. Grey was to be congratulated on the way in which he had carried them out.

This on being seconded by Mr. Segar, was adopted.

Colonel Leigh proposed the re-election of Earl Waldegrave as President for the ensuing year, and referred to the great interest he had taken in the Society. They were grateful to him for his past services.

Mr. Norman having seconded the election of Earl Waldegrave as President, it was carried with acclamation.

On the proposition of Mr. Kemeys-Tynte, seconded by the Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn, the following were elected Vice-Presidents: Lord Strachie, Captain C. T. Foxcroft, M.P., and the Rev. Prebendary S. A. Boyd, M.A., B.C.L.

The President proposed, and Mr. Wace seconded, that the following form the Committee: Major-General Bradshaw, Mr. G. Lawrence Bulleid, Mr. S. D. M. Kemeys-Tynte, Lieut.-Colonel Leigh, Mr. George Norman, Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn, Mr. M. H. Scott and Mr. Edward Segar.

This was carried unanimously.

Colonel Mainwaring, in proposing the re-election of Mr. Thos. S. Bush as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, said they all knew of his energy and courtesy.

This was seconded by Dr. O'Sullivan and carried.

Mr. Bush having thanked the Members for re-electing him, said that since his appointment as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer in 1903, he had done his best for the Branch, and would so continue. He further remarked that the President had referred to the illustrations in the Proceedings, so he would like to remind Members who have cameras that there are many opportunities of taking photographs during the excursions.

Mr. Ingham, in proposing the re-election of Mr. Gerald Grey as Hon. Excursion Secretary, said they were very grateful to him for the labour and time he gave to making the excursions successful.

This was seconded by Mr. Bulleid and carried unanimously.

Mr. Grey having returned thanks for his election, said that this was the fourteenth year that he had held office, so that it was impossible to arrange entirely fresh ground for their excursions. The following have been arranged: South Wraxall, Great Chalfield and Farleigh Castle; Yatton, Chelvey, Backwell and Cleeve; Fairford, Quenington and Ampney St. Mary; Sherborne; Shepton Mallet, Evercreech, Ditcheat and East Pennard; and Bristol.

Major-General Bradshaw, in proposing a vote of thanks to Earl Waldegrave for presiding, said he had always proved himself a great supporter of this Branch Society.

This was seconded by Mr. Thos. S. Bush.

The President having acknowledged it, said the British Archæological Association had intimated that they would hold their Annual Meeting in Bath early in July.

EXCURSIONS.

SOUTH WRAXALL, GREAT CHALFIELD AND FARLEIGH CASTLE.

Monday, April 24th, 1922.

Some eighty members attended the first excursion of the season, motor coaches left Fountain buildings at 1.30 p.m. The weather was cold, and the motors ran through a heavy storm on leaving Great Chalfield, but it cleared for a lovely evening and the season was most auspiciously begun.

South Wraxall is one of the show places of Wiltshire, a county richly endowed in this direction. The Branch has visited it before, but many saw it for the first time and all appreciated the opportunity. They were very kindly and courteously received by the owner, Major E. Richardson Cox, T.D., D.L., J.P., who conducted them over the manor and pointed out the leading features. South Wraxall is a very beautiful and very interesting piece of domestic architecture. The house occupies three sides of a court with a gate house to the south, the latter and the fine oriel window above it and the hall with its porch being the oldest portion, probably the work of the time of Henry VII. The hall is the leading feature, a magnificient apartment with a wonderful roof and furnished with tapestry and furniture and trophies all in keeping. The mansion was built by a member of the numerous Wilts family of Longs. A strikingly rich fireplace, inserted in 1598, dominates the room, together with a very fine carved screen, the whole of the decorations being Jacobean. Major Richardson Cox strongly critised the taste of a restoring architect who has inserted quite unsuitable windows. It may be mentioned that the house was unoccupied for a long period in the 18th Century and was completely restored in 1900-2 by the present owner.

The very handsome drawing room is another notable feature of the manor, with its richly ornamented plaster ceiling and elaborate chimney piece with the carved figures of Prudence, Justice, Geometry, and Arithmetic, with Pan in the centre. Opposite is a singular projection designed to carry the wall plate of the old roof—in the time of James the room was found neither big nor light enough and two bays were thrust out, and girders being unknown, this erection was inserted to carry the roof. Upstairs was seen a bedroom of the same date with a remarkably fine fireplace with a baboon on a bracket. On either side are two shields, different in size and decoration and yet making a pair. The fireplace has three mottoes, " Faber est quisque fortunae suae " (every man is architect of his own fortune), " Mors rapit omnia " (death seizes everyone), and " Aequa laus est a laudatis laudari et ab improbis improbari " (it is just as much a compliment to be blamed by a bad man as it is to have the praise of a good one).

It is a tradition that this was one of the first houses in England where tobacco was first smoked, Sir Walter Raleigh being said to have smoked tobacco in silver pipes with his host, Sir Walter Long. Major Richardson Cox observed that there was little doubt Sir Walter Raleigh stayed there, and that he did smoke there, but it was not likely he waited till his visit in order to commence smoking. In the restoration a number of clay pipes were dug up, but had unfortunately been thrown away. Sir Walter Raleigh's room was shown ; it, too, has a fine fireplace—Lord Lee of Fareham has made a copy of it for the Chequers, now the Prime Minister's country house.

Major Richardson Cox was warmly thanked by Mr. St. David Kemeys-Tynte.

Major Fuller, who had intended to welcome the party to Great Chalfield, wrote expressing his regret at being compelled through the death of a great friend to go into Essex. In his place Mr. Harold Breakspear, who was the architect for Major Fuller during the restoration, explained what had been done. The party were welcomed first in the little church in the courtyard by the Vicar (the Rev. Liddiard Cook), and Mr. Breakspear observed that it was the earliest building they had on the site. The manor of Chalfield was in Domesday Book, and until a short time ago the old Domesday Mill was partly in existence, but it got into a very bad state of repair and the late owner demolished it and nothing remained except the site and a 14th Century stone. The manor was owned in the 13th Century and most of the 14th by the Percys, and during their time the little church was built. The 13th Century nave remained with an original window on the north side, the sill of which shows evidence of an earlier church. Thomas Tropnell, who built the house, first intended to be buried there and built the charming little transeptal chapel for the purpose. The little church was in a most deplorable state when Major Fuller took it in hand. The fine stone screen, which the speaker remembered at the chancel arch, had now been placed where Tropnell had built it, at the transept arch. It will be remembered that the Rev. Richard Warner, historian, was Vicar here.

Proceeding to the Manor house, Mr. Breakspear pointed out that the house was commenced in 1465. It was built upon the usual Wiltshire plan of a large central hall with two storied buildings each end. Usually the hall was open to the roof, but the only communication between the upper storeys was through the hall, and from the middle of the 15th Century efforts were made to connect the two upper stories, and the result in this case was a ceiling with a way above it.

A notable feature was the three stone masks or hollow human faces with holes through which the lady of the house could see that good order was being kept in the hall. Little Sodbury was the only other place with such a mask, and it had only one. The building at the lower end of the hall had been carefully restored, but the buildings beyond the dais end had practically disappeared, and there were no plans, though the foundations were found. It was rebuilt as far as possible in keeping, and Mr. Breakspear pointed out the care which had been taken to build in the beautiful oriel window, which alone remained.—The thanks of the society to Mr. Breakspear were voiced by Mr. Segar, who expressed regret at the absence of Major Fuller.

After an excellent tea at the Swan, Bradford-on-Avon, the society visited Farleigh Castle. Mr. George Lansdown, J.P., who has taken a great interest in the question of the restoration, acted as guide. He drew attention to the great difference in the appearance of the gatehouse and the Lady Tower from what it was in 1914. The ivy, which made the ruins so picturesque, had been pulled down, and the old walls repointed. There had been great controversy in regard to the way in which the work had been undertaken by the Board of Works. Comparing it with the untouched portion on the extreme right they would notice that the gatehouse and wall adjoining had been repointed, and the pointing came flush with the face of the stone, and the feeling and texture and tone of the wall had been changed. There was a sharp division between the old and the restored. Mr. Peto, of Iford, and Mr. Lister, of Westwood, were strongly of opinion that the work done was unnecessary and the restoration had been carried out on too drastic lines. It was absolutely necessary, however, for something to be done to secure the building ; it was for experts to decide whether the work had been carried beyond preservation.

At the Domesday Survey the Manor belonged to Sir Roger

Courcelle, at whose death it reverted to the Crown and William Rufus granted it to Hugh de Montfort. The village was at one time called Farleigh Montfort. In the reign of Edward III., Sir Reginald de Montfort sold the manor to Bartholomew lord Burghersh. In 1369 it was purchased by Sir Thomas Hungerford. This Sir Thomas obtained a royal license to convert the mansion of the Montforts into a castle by adding four towers, a moat and two embattled gateways. In the reign of Charles II., Sir Edward Hungerford sold the manor to Henry Baynton of Spy Park, who with his wife, Lady Ann Wilmot, resided there; they appear to have been the last occupants of the Castle.

On the front face of the gate house is one of the devices of the Hungerford, a sickle, and above it their crest " out of a ducal cor. a wheat garb or, between 2 sickles erect proper." (Another coat of this family is " Sa, 2 bars argent, in chief 3 plates." This may be seen in the Manor house, Wellow, and the Abbey Church House, Bath.) Passing through the gateway the outer or north court is entered, this was a paved court, on the N. and W. sides were stables and on the E, that is to the right on entering, is the Chapel. The inner or south court contained the dwellings with hall, kitchen, etc., this court is flanked by four round towers, between the two northern towers a wall was carried across, so dividing the two courts. The walls of the towers were in some places 5 feet and in others 8 feet thick, the height of the towers being 60 feet. The Chapel consists of a nave 56 feet by 19½ feet and a chapel on the north side 20 feet by 14 feet. The roof of oak is embossed with sickles and the arms of the Hungerfords. The building is entered by a porch at the W. end, then down some steps, nearly at the foot of these and in the centre of the nave is a tomb of one of the Chantry Priests, with an inscription in Latin, nearly illegible, translated it reads " of the perpetual chantry founded at the alter of the blessed Virgin Mary, by Walter Hungerford. Lord Hungerford . . . . who died the 5th . . . . on whose soul may God have mercy. Amen."

The tomb under the arch between the two chapels is that of Sir Thomas Hungerford, the purchaser of Farleigh, who died in 1398, and of his Lady Joan, who died in 1411-12, the tomb next to this in the centre of the small chapel is that of Sir Edward Hungerford, died 1648 and Margaret his wife, died 1672. In the N.E. corner of this chapel is the monument of Sir Edward Hungerford, died 1607. In the S.E. corner of the larger chapel stands the monument of Sir Walter Hungerford, died 1595, and of his son Edward, died 1585.

Under the smaller chapel is a vault reached from the outside, containing some coffins with skeletons, supposed to be of the Hungerford family.

Mr. Lansdown was heartily thanked by the Rev. F. C. Bayliss for his interesting information. Bath was reached at 7 o'Clock.

YATTON, CHELVEY, BACKWELL AND BARROW GURNEY.

MONDAY, MAY 22ND, 1922.

The second excursion took place in ideal weather; three motor coaches left Queen Square at 10-45 a.m., via Bristol and Long Ashton.

The Rev. Fiddian E. Peart, the Vicar of Yatton, gave an account of the Church of St. Mary. Speaking first of the very beautiful south porch, he described it as some of the most beautiful work in English Gothic, and one of the best specimens of a porch—a drawing of it was placed on the back of the card of membership of the Society of British Architects. He pointed to the figure of the Father in the niche over the west window, with the Crucified Saviour between his knees—the only others he knew were at East Brent and Binegar. Other exterior features are the truncated spire, and the interesting north door. Inside, the vicar commented that Yatton Church has one of the most beautiful naves in a county full of beautiful churches. There was a church there before the Norman Conquest, but of the older church practically nothing remained. An early part of the church was the crossing of the lower part of the tower, a very good specimen of that strong Early English architecture which grew gradually out of the Norman work. The 13th Century lancet window over the chancel arch proprobably looked over the then roof of the nave. The original church was cross form, a long nave, with two transepts and a chancel. In the 13th Century they took down and rebuilt the whole of the nave, and throughout the 15th Century the sound of the chisel was never silent, pillars, arches, clerestory and aisles were put up. It was clear by the curiously abrupt termination of the St. John's Chapel that it was intended to raise also the roof of the chancel, which had never been done. —the vicar was warmly thanked by the Rev. F. C. Bayliss.

Luncheon was then partaken of at the Prince of Orange Hotel.

The visit to Chelvey Court had added interest, because Mr. St. David Kemeys-Tynte, a prominent member of the Society, acted as guide to the house of his ancestors. On the occasion of a previous visit of the branch, 11 years ago, Mr. Kemeys-Tynte gave a detailed history of the manor, and on this occasion confined himself to a few of the principal facts. (See notes on former visit, 1911 Proceedings, pages 101-104.)

Mr. and Mrs. John Cottle, who are very proud of their old home, showed the party round.

The vicar of Chelvey (the Rev. H. W. Humphreys), showing the parish church of St. Bridget, said a small Norman church existed upon that spot in 1140, and probably before, but that date was fixed by the south door. The only parts remaining were the south doorway, the north wall of the nave, not the windows, and the font. The church was enlarged in the 13th Century by the addition of the new chancel—the north window was 13th Century—and again in the 15th Century there was extensive restoration ; the south walls of the nave and chancel were taken down and the south aisle or manorial chapel erected. Features of special interest are some pews, hundreds of years old, hewn out of solid wood, an hour glass, and portion of a fresco.

The fine old manor barn was admired—it is not a tithe barn —for it is in excellent condition. Mr. Kemeys-Tynte, Mr. and Mrs. Cottle and the Vicar were thanked by Mr. H. M. Ingham.

In the absence of the Rector, the Rev. S. Caudwell, Mr. Gerald Grey read some notes on the church of St. Andrew's, Backwell. (See notes on former visit, 1911 Proceedings, pages 87, 88.)

After tea at the Angel Inn, Flax Bourton, the members proceeded to Barrow Court, by permission of Mr. H. Martin Gibbs, who, unfortunately was unable personally to act as guide, was an unusual treat. There are few more picturesque mansions in Somerset. It is a fine and imposing residence of Elizabethan style and date, and the interior is a sheer delight to lovers of the beautiful and artistic. The house occupies the site of an ancient nunnery, said to have been founded by Eva, granddaughter of Robert Fitz-Harding, who died in 1230. The nunnery was dissolved in 1536, and their house was entirely rebuilt or altered out of recognition. The manor passed through a succession of owners to the Gore family, who assumed the arms of Langton on the marriage of William Gore, 12, 1783, with Bridget, daughter of Joseph Langton, of Newton St. Loe. In 1856 Montague Gore sold the manor of Barrow Gurney to J. Blagrave, who, in 1881, again sold it to Mr. Anthony Gibbs, from whom it passed to Mr. Henry Martin Gibbs, the present owner. In his hands the Court has been wonderfully restored and added to.

Parts of the house are new, but carefully in keeping. The former kitchen and scullery has been converted into a magnificent front hall and panelled dining room, the feature of which is the great fireplace, and overmantel, and the exquisite carved dividing screen which is said formerly to have carried an ambulatory, with a way into the nuns' church—the doorway in the wall of the church is clearly visible. The oldest portions of the house are a beautiful oak parlour with a fine old ceiling, and the upper storey, a series of exquisite bedrooms and corridors, full of artistic treasures.

Next was seen the Church of St. Mary the Virgin and King Edward the Martyr, the double dedication having been adopted in consequence of the inclusion in one building of the chapel of the Priory and the church of the parish. It is a handsome, stately structure, beautifully ornamented, having been practically rebuilt by Mr. Martin Gibbs. The south, or court, aisle, stands upon the site of, and represents what was anciently the chapel of the nuns. There are several items of antiquarian interest, a tomb at the west end composed of encaustic tiles, found on the site of the nave or ante chapel of the nuns' church, a cracked mediæval bell of 15th Century date on the floor, which formerly hung in the old tower, and some remains of the Norman work. Before leaving the party wandered through the beautiful gardens, noting particularly the yew hedges trimmed into a wondrous castle design.

Mr. Kemeys-Tynte expressed the thanks of the Society to Mr. Martin Gibbs for his kindness, and to the Rev. H. A. Keates, vicar, who had shown them the church.

An enjoyable day was concluded, Bath being reached about 7 o'clock.

AMPNEY ST. MARY, FAIRFORD AND QUENINGTON.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH, 1922.

Three motor coaches started from Fountain Buildings at 9.45 a.m., in fine weather.

After a pleasant drive through Malmesbury and Cirencester, the first stop was made at Ampney St. Mary, where the Norman church was visited, by permission of the Rector, the Rev. D. T. Jones. This charming little country church stands alone in the fields near the main road. Externally a simple building, and consisting only of a nave and chancel, it links up the present with the 12th Century. A curious north doorway, now blocked up, attracts first attention, for it possesses a Norman tympanum or head stone with some fairly well preserved carving, a double-headed serpent, a griffin and a lion, depicting probably the ever-present battle between right and evil. The little south porch has a Norman blocked up window, and these, together with the font, are the chief indications of the early church. The walls and windows appear from the masonary to be 13th Century work. The west window is a fine example of flowing tracery, but has settled and lost its shape somewhat. The chancel arch contains a portion of the old moulded stone screen, with portions of the priest's stalls facing east. The east window is a very good example of a three-light window of the early 13th Century. During the reparation, about 10 years ago, the colour wash was removed from the walls and underneath were revealed some frescoes of an interesting nature.

Proceeding to Fairford, luncheon was partaken of at the Bull Hotel. Afterwards the members proceeded to the Church of St. Mary and were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. C. S. Jones, who is justly proud of his beautiful church, and spared no trouble in pointing out its features. The church was rebuilt in 1492. There was a much earlier church at Fairford, of which there remains the base of the tower, including the exterior up to the second string course, which belongs chiefly to the 13th Century, though the columns and arch in the south-western pier inside the church are perhaps older still. The builder of the present church was John Tame, a wool stapler from Cirencester, who came to live at Fairford, and the glass was put in by his son, Sir Edmund Tame, though probably in pursuance of his father's design. The date of the windows is between 1493 and 1505, and the date is fixed, for in 1520 Henry VIII. went to Fairford to stay with Sir Edmund Tame, who was one of his gentlemen, straight from the Field of the Cloth of Gold.

There is internal evidence to show that the design must have been by one artist, for all the windows are in relation to each other, and part of a very good scheme. The Vicar himself having studied the glass at King's College, Cambridge, is of opinion that the Fairford glass is the work of the same hand, Bernard Flower. One or two of the ideas are identical, and the wearing by our Lord in the walk to Calvary of an extra weight in the shape of a spiked block, is found nowhere except at Cambridge and Fairford. These windows are acclaimed by one of the greatest authorities as "perhaps the best specimens, and the greatest number existing in England of the 16th Century ; they are valuable examples of the arrangement and disposition of subjects in use at that time; the shadows are bold and deep, but perfectly transparent; the drawing of the draperies excellent, and the figures tolerably correct." Van Dyck himself expressed the opinion that "many of the figures were so exquisitely done that they could not be exceeded by the best pencil."

The preservation of the glass is not so complete as could be wished, though praiseworthy efforts have been made at various times. Several of the faces were wilfully damaged in Puritan times.; in the hurried removal at the period of the Civil Wars much injury was done, and in the subsequent replacement various figures and designs were fixed up together—in one case the enamel side was fixed facing outwards, and suffered from exposure to the weather. Much of this has been remedied now. Further, the three windows of the fine west front were greatly shattered and broken by a remarkable storm about 1703-4, and the upper portion is largely modern, though it gives a very fine idea of how the original window appeared.

The unique interest of the windows, as indicated, lies in the beauty of colouring, the peculiar property of really old glass, the perfection of their drawing and execution, and the fact that they are a complete scheme, not individual windows added without reference to each other. Those on the north side show the richer colouring, and are in the best state of preservation, not being subject to the same degree of heat as the south windows. They can be divided into two classes, pictorial windows and figure windows. The latter include the 12 apostles, each surmounted by an article of the Apostles' Creed, and opposite to them 12 prophets, not in chronological order, but each with a prophecy corresponding to the article of belief in the window opposite. There are four fathers of the church, faced by four evangelists, and in the south clerestory are 12 saints of the church, answering to 12 persecutions of the church in the north clerestory—it is probably the only church with a window of Judas Iscariot. The remaining 12 of the 28 windows are termed pictorial. They include the great west triptych of the Last Judgment, the principal scenes in the life of Our Lord, with the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin and the Transfiguration, each of which forms the central picture of the north and south chapels. The great east window is divided by the transom into two halves. The upper half contains the Crucifixion, which, unfortunately, is irretrievably damaged; on the lower is painted the story of the Passion. The Vicar gave the explanation of each window, and drew special attention to the magnificient triptych of Judgment at the west end, the southern containing the judgment of David upon the Amalekite—the judgment of justice—the northern, the judgment of truth, and the central the Last Judgment, the most splendid window in the church.

Among the church plate is a chalice of 1597, and a most interesting mazer bowl of 1480. In the bowl is a crystal. When a bargain was made the parties drank together out of this bowl, and if there was anything wrong about the bargain, the crystal was supposed to become misty.

The faint traces of pictures on the wall were examined, particularly one which the Vicar said he had recently found out to be St. Edmund the King, with the instruments of torture round his semi-nude figure—he was martyred—and on the east side the emblems of the Passion. On another pillar he had made out the pelican on its nest.

The very warm thanks of the Branch were extended to Mr. Jones by the Rev. F. C. Bayliss.

Before tea the members travelled two miles further to Quenington to see the Norman Church with its two grand Norman doorways, each with a carved tympanum, two of the finest examples to be seen; The Rector (the Rev. A. H. Squire), acted as guide. Speaking of the magnificent north arch, he remarked that guide books usually gave the subject of the tympanum as the " Harrowing of Hell," but as there was a fish in the carving, and he did not know of fish in hell, he disagreed. In his opinion it depicted Revelations xx., " The sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell gave up the dead which were in them." The idea was Christ reigning and the devil bound for a thousand years—he was very clearly bound. He drew attention to the Sun, representative of the Father, which he believed was unique in England, because the Almighty was never represented with a face, but in the centre of this Sun was a face. He was told that there were two instances on the continent. (A member of the party stated that a similar sun with a face was also to be seen at Peterborough.) He also pointed out two stones like Runic stones It had been thought these were Saxon stones put in, but as they were part of the capital carved, probably the Saxon stone was copied. The south tympanum depicts the Coronation of the Virgin. A subject which was very rare at this early date but exceedingly popular in later times. Here we observe our Lord and the Virgin seated side by side on a raised throne our Lord's right hand elevated, no doubt to signify that He has just placed the crown on the head of the Blessed Virgin, on either side is a large seraph with folded wings, and t Evangelistic emblems—SS Matthew and Mark on the sinister, and SS John and Luke on the dexter side. The hundred of

Quenington was held by Roger de Lace, who came over with the Conquerer, and was given large tracts of land. It passed later into the possession of the Templars.

Mr. Squire was thanked by the Rev. J. Byrchmore, a member of the Council of the parent society.

A return was made to the Bull Hotel, Fairford, for tea, and Mr. Gerald Grey was heartily thanked on behalf of the members by Mr. H. M. Ingham for the success of his arrangements. The return was made via Cirencester and Tetbury. Bath being reached at 7.30.

SHERBORNE AND TRENT.

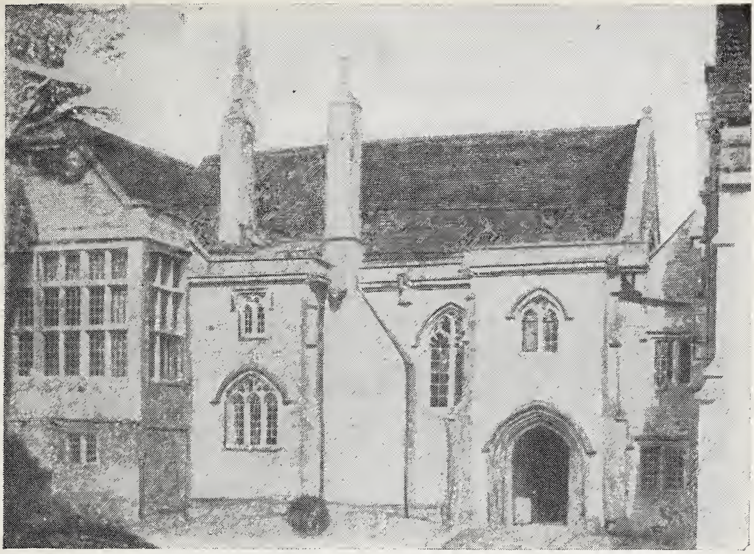
Monday, July 17th, 1922.

Some eighty members availed themselves of this excursion. The weather was lovely, and the outward journey, which starting from Queen Square at 9.45 a.m., was made via Radstock, Downside and Castle Cary.

The historic buildings of Sherborne School, which adjoin the fine old Abbey Church, were first visited, and the tour of inspection was made under the efficient guidance of Mr. H. H. Hudson, a member of the school staff. An interesting address was given by Mr. Hudson in the schoolhouse dining hall, on which site the original Sherborne School, believed to have been founded in 705, was erected. The date of the present building, Mr. Hudson explained, the third on that particular site, was 1670. The Jacobean style of the hall and the fine waggon roof having been pointed out, Mr. Hudson drew attention to the painted stone figure of King Edward VI., who refounded the school. The statue, he said, was made in 1614 by a Godfrey Arnold, who received as recompense £9 5s. 4d. They afterwards found items in the school accounts such as " for washing of ye King—6d."

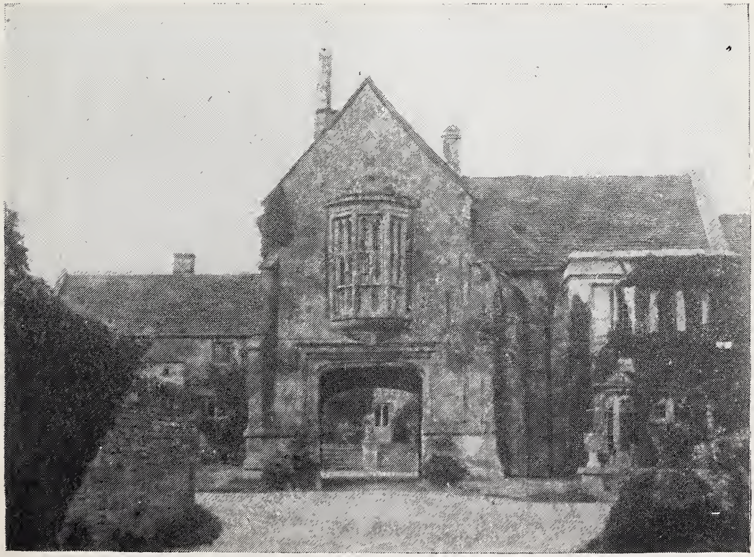
The party were then shown the ancient Guesten Hall, which is now the school library. The hall, a fine example of 15th Century work, was presented to the schools, with other buildings in 1851 by Edward, Earl of Digby ; and from 1855 to 1879 it was used as a big schoolroom. The south window was filled with stained glass in 1887 to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Other interesting places visited were the Chapel, formerly the Abbot's Hall, and the vaulted undercroft of late Norman work, and the exterior of the old Abbot's lodgings, one of the oldest parts of the school buildings was noted.

Luncheon having been partaken of at the Half Moon Hotel,



Photo] [*Mr. Gerald Grey*

SOUTH WRAXALL MANOR COURTYARD.



Photo] [*Mr. Gerald Grey*

SOUTH WRAXALL MANOR, THE GATE HOUSE.

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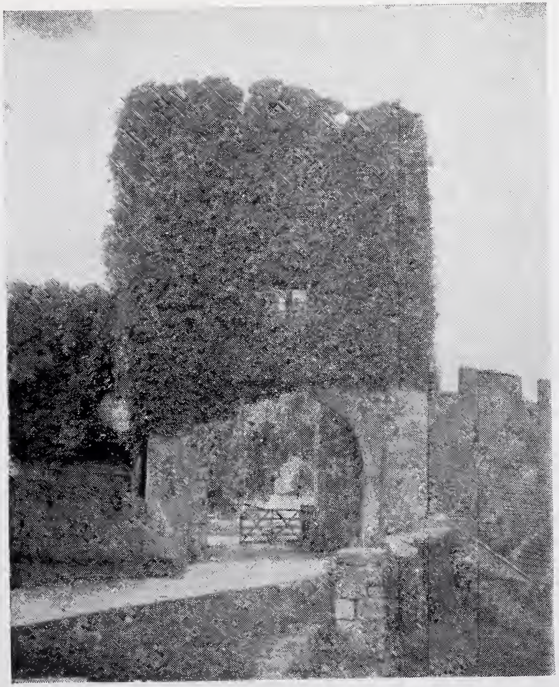
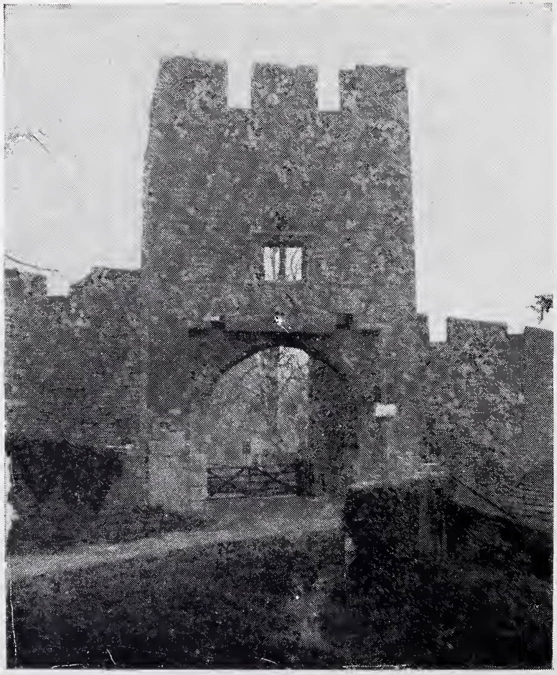


Photo] [*Mr. George Lansdown*

FARLEIGH CASTLE GATEWAY (BEFORE RESTORATION).



Photo] [*Mr. George Lansdown*

FARLEIGH CASTLE GATEWAY (AFTER RESTORATION).

Photo] [*Miss Rodman*

BARROW COURT.

Photo] [*Miss Rodman*

BARROW COURT.

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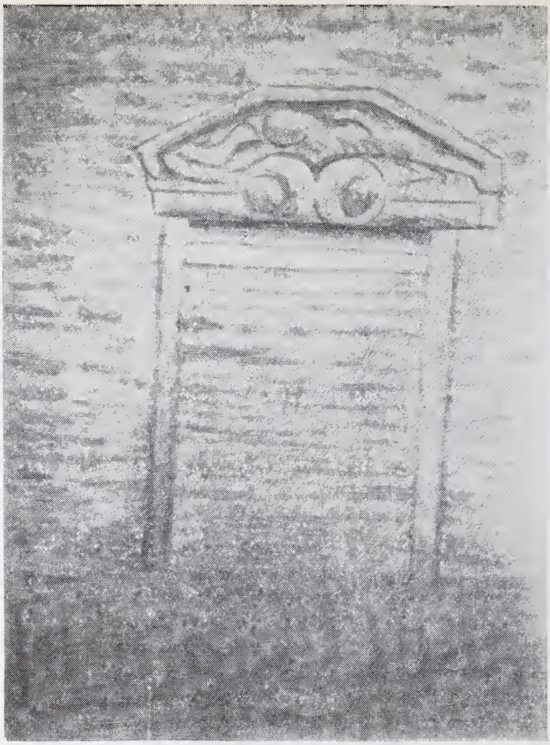
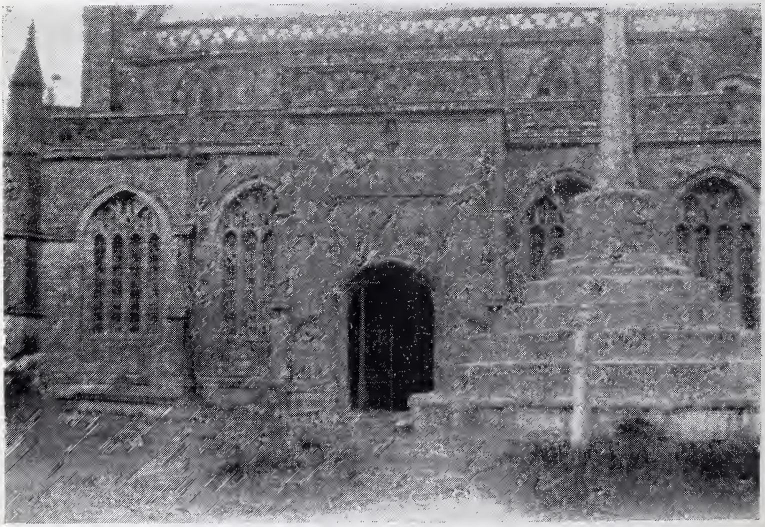


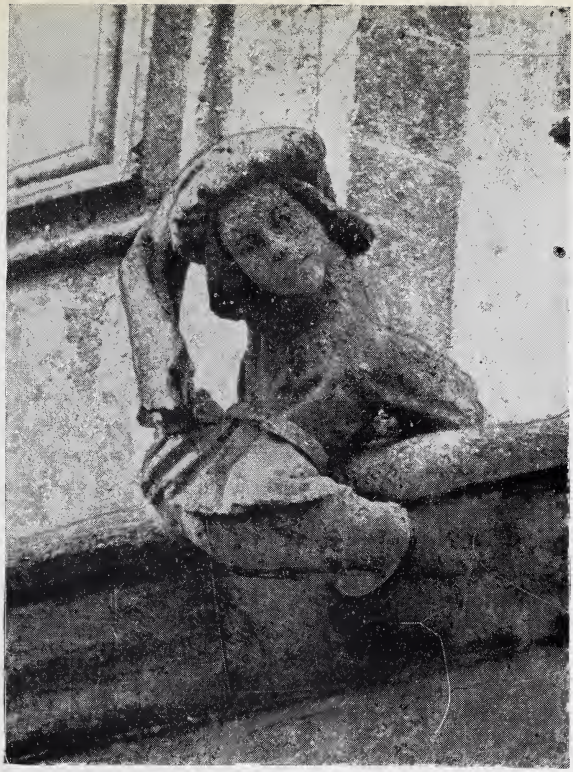
Photo] [*Mr. P. E. Capes*

AMPNEY ST. MARY, NORMAN NORTH DOOR WALLED UP.



Photo] [*Miss Rodman*

YATTON CHURCH, SOUTH PORCH.

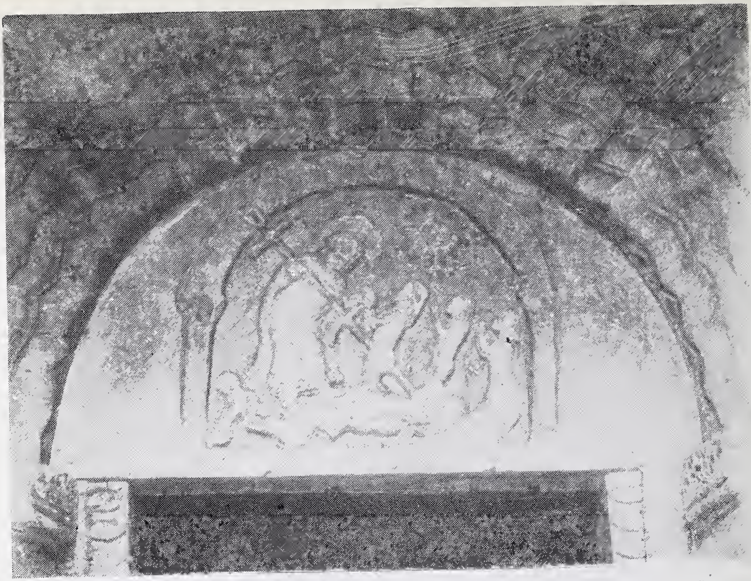


Photo] [*Mr. Gerald Grey*

"CHIMERA," FAIRFORD CHURCH.

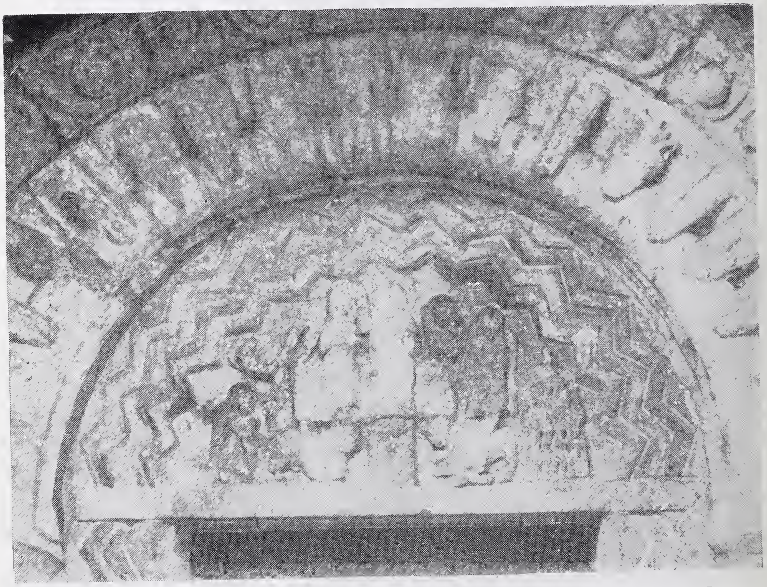
Photo] [*Miss Rodman*

FAIRFORD CHURCH.



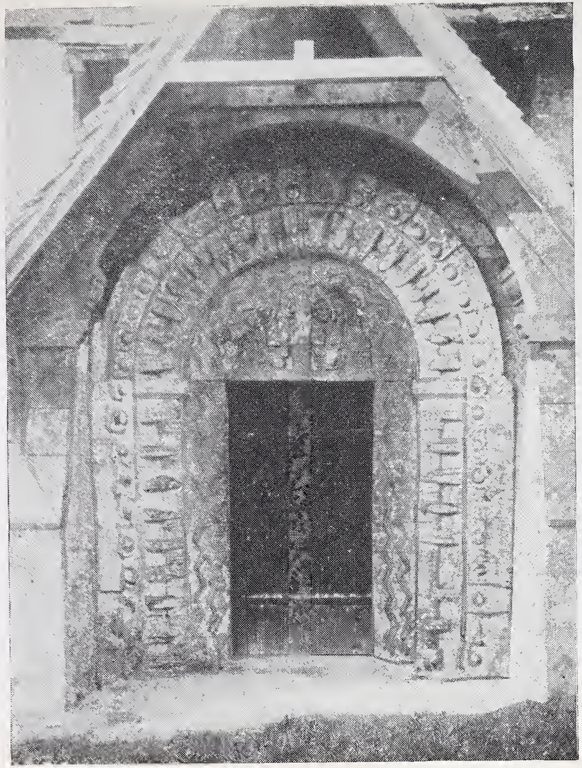
Photo] [*Mr. Gerald Grey*

Quenington Tympanum, North Door.
(Subject: "The Harrowing of Hell.")



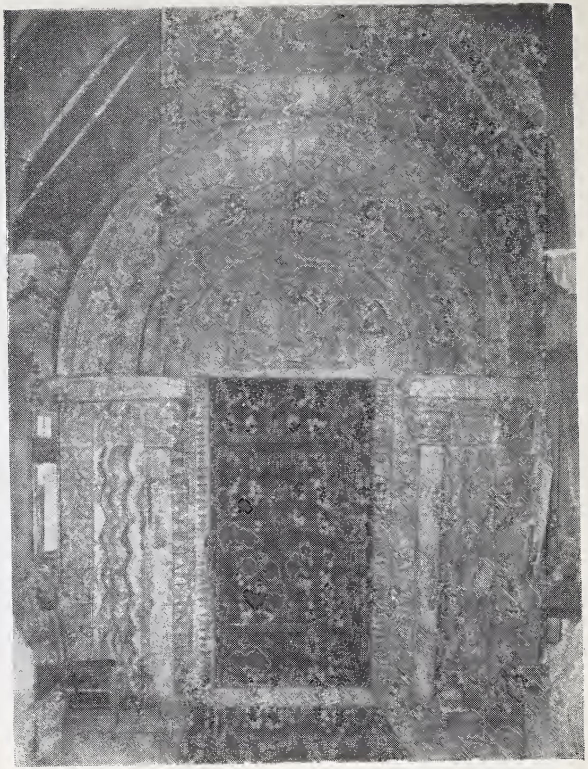
Photo] [*Mr. Gerald Grey*

Quenington Tympanum, South Door.
(Subject: "The Coronation of the Virgin.")



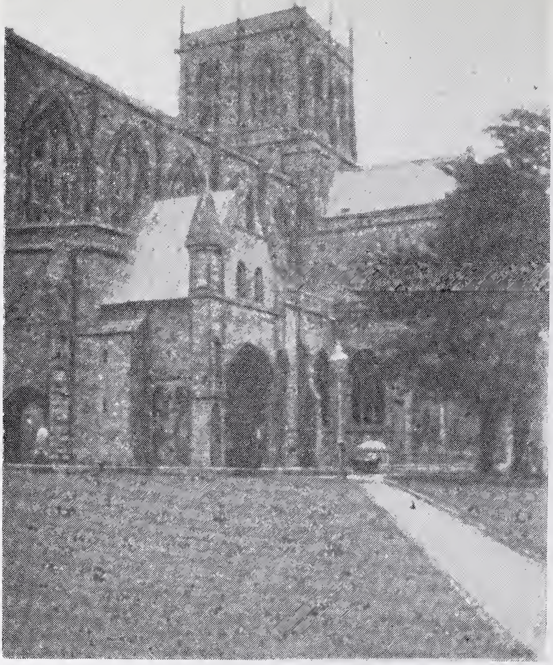
Photo] [Mr. Gerald Grey

QUENINGTON, SOUTH DOORWAY.



Photo] [Mr. Gerald Grey

QUENINGTON, NORTH DOORWAY.

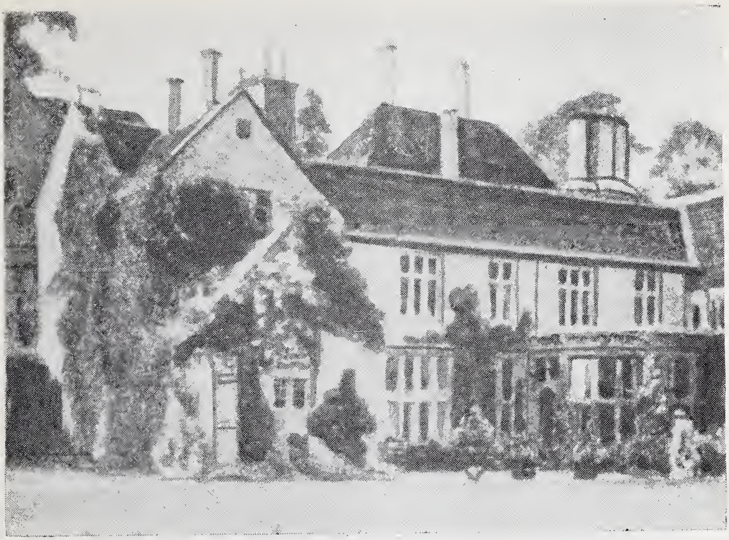


Photo] [*Mr. P. E. Capes*

SHERBORNE ABBEY.

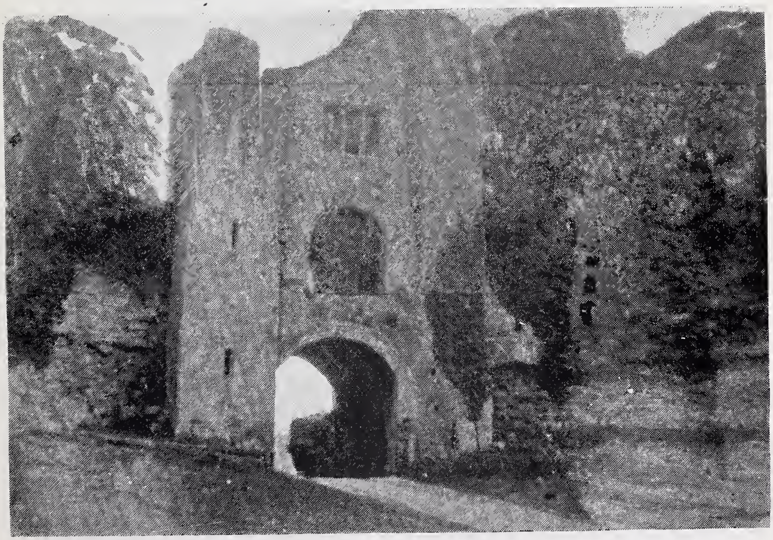
Photo] [*Miss Rodman*

SHERBORNE ABBEY, NORMAN SOUTH DOOR.



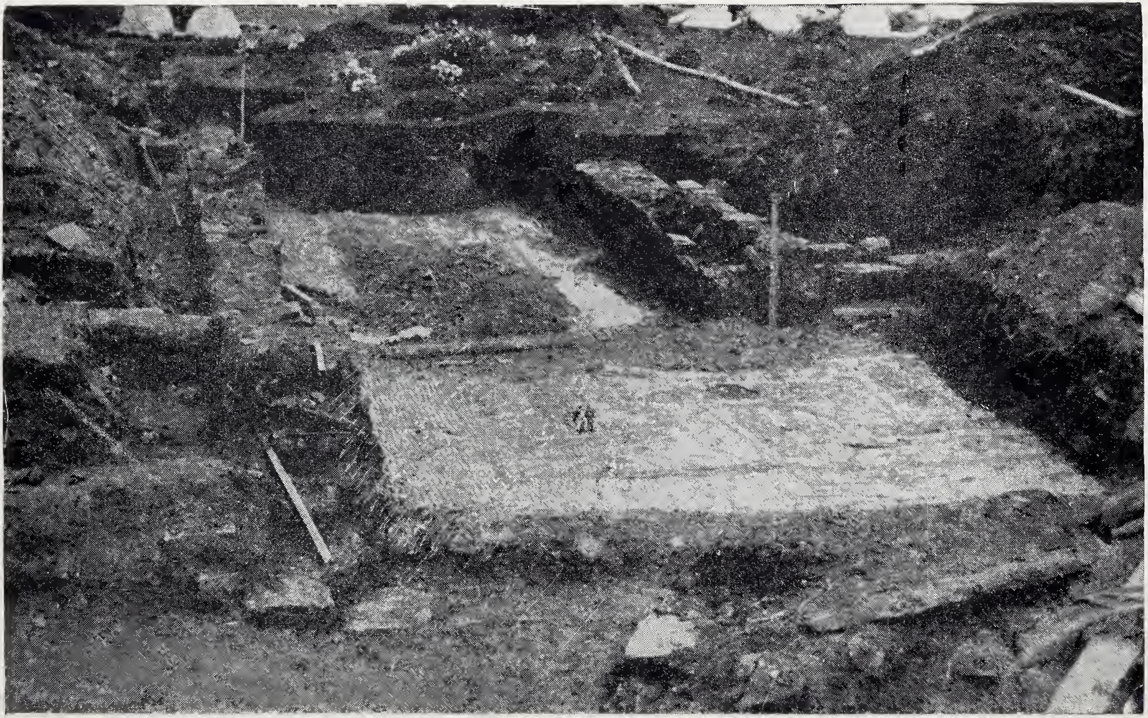
Photo] [*Miss Rodman*

TRENT MANOR.



Photo] [*Miss Rodman*

SHERBORNE CASTLE, MAIN ENTRANCE.



Photo] [The Herald Press

Keynsham Roman Villa, Tesselated Pavements.

the old Almhouse was visited, which was refounded in 1437 by license from King Henry VI. as a hospital of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. The older part of the building was finished in 1448. The party was greatly interested in the picturesque little chapel, which is separated from the ante-chapel by a very striking Perpendicular arch and oak screen, above which is a gallery for the women. The quaint old dining hall and the board room, which has a pretty oriel window facing the Abbey, were also inspected.

Before entering Sherborne Abbey the members were cordially welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon S. H. Wingfield Digby, who remarked that just now they were intensely interested in the restoration of the Lady Chapel. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, in the 16th Century, the chapel passed into the possession of the Governors of Sherborne School, and was turned into a domestic dwelling. They hoped to undo what they considered was a disgraceful page in the history of Sherborne—the turning of a religious building into a domestic building—and he called their particular attention to the scheme which was being carried out in restoring the Lady Chapel to its original consecrated use and purpose.

The members then inspected the Abbey, Mr. King, the verger, acting as guide. Well versed in the history of the ancient and beautiful edifice he explained the principal features of interest in an admirable manner. The unusually fine Perpendicular work and the mangificent fan-vaulting of the nave and choir were greatly admired, and the members were also much interested in the various shields and rebuses in the nave. The numerous tombs and monuments in the church were pointed out and inspected, including a brass in the ambulatory marking the burial place of the Saxon kings, Ethelbald and Ethelbert, together with other graves of great antiquity and interest. The work of restoring the old Lady Chapel was seen to be well advanced, and it was evident that the greatest care is being exercised in retaining the various architectural features as far as possible.

Through the kindness of the owner of Sherborne Castle, Major F. J. B. Wingfield Digby, D.S.O., the members inspected the old castle ruins. Mr. H. H. Hudson again officiated as guide.

The castle like all other castles in England had little peace and was the scene of fierce attacks of violence and scheming. In 1597 the castle and manor was granted to Sir Walter Raleigh "for ever," but as that gallant adventurer was indicted for treason in 1603, he was not long possessed of his property, During the Great Civil War the castle was twice besieged—once in 1642 and once in 1645 with the result that it was taken by Fairfax for the Parliament and eventually blown up by gunpowder after the manner of Corfe Castle. Little remains of the castle but the fine Norman gate-house, the walls of the chapel and of the keep. Here are to be seen still immense masses of masonary standing up like rugged crags on a lawn, a Norman doorway, a Norman window, a great Norman pillar. There are dingy, barrel-vaulted chambers, traces of sunken passages, a wall marked by a beautiful interesting arcade, and a turrel stair.

After tea, which was served in the Church Hall, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. H. H. Hudson, on the motion of Mr. Kemeys-Tynte, who attended Sherborne School as a boy.

Mr. Hudson said it had been a great pleasure to do what he could to help them. He regretted that Mr. W. B. Wildman, formerly a classical master at the school for many years, was unable to meet them that day owing to the state of his health.

The excellent arrangements made by Mr. Gerald Grey, the hon. excursion secretary, were also cordially acknowledged, on the proposition of Mr. H. M. Ingham. In his response, Mr. Grey thanked the house-master of Lyon house, Mr. Trelawny Ross, for his kind help in connection with the day's programme.

From Sherborne the members proceeded to the picturesque hamlet of Trent, which has been transferred to Dorset from Somerset. They were cordially received at Trent Manor by Major-Gen. and Mrs. G. Drummond and inspected the charming house, which is a part of the old seat of the Wyndhams. The members were greatly interested in seeing the secret hiding place of King Charles II., after the Battle of Worcester, and they also much enjoyed their inspection of the delightful gardens. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Major-Gen. and Mrs. Drummond for their kindness on the proposition of Mr. G. W. Duncan.

The last place to be visited was the particularly interesting church of St. Andrew, Trent, where the special features were pointed out by the Rector, the Rev. W. T. Roe. The finely-carved screen, carving of the ancient benches, oak pulpit (bought on the Continent by the Rev. W. H. Turner, a former rector), monuments and stone effigies, all proved of great interest, and the Rector said they were all very proud of their bells, three out of five of which were mediæval, In the name of the members, Mr. H. Brydges-Barrett suitably thanked the Rector.

The homeward journey, via Frome and Beckington, commenced at 6.30, and Bath was reached shortly before 9.

SHEPTON MALLET, EVERCREECH, DITCHEAT AND EAST PENNARD.

Monday, September 18th, 1922.

Beautiful weather favoured this excursion and 70 members started from Queen Square by motor coach.

The first call was Shepton Mallet, where the Rector (the Rev. R. L. Jones), welcomed the Society. The parish church of SS. Peter and Paul, he remarked, belonged to many periods of architecture. Once upon a time there was a small Saxon church, the place being a little country district, belonging to Glastonbury. Then as Shepton, which had a market, grew, they had to make the church grow, until in 1837, they again wanted more room, but had only a little money and they made it as large as they could for their money—thus a good deal of the old was lost. He mentioned as an unfortunate instance of vandalising restoration that a two storied treasure chamber was taken out for the insertion of the organ and was only visible externally and the bulk of the old papers of the church thrown away. A noticeable feature was the very large arcades of the nave (17ft.), of Transitional Norman. They were wider than the arcades of Wells and larger than the width of the church's nave, which was 14ft. 5in. They were, it was believed, inserted in the wall of the Saxon church, which would account for the unfinished appearance of the pillars. Originally there were two arcades, the westernmost being added later, that would give the church very nearly the size of the Saxon church at Bradford-on-Avon and exactly the size of the Durham church. Then the church was lengthened, the third arcade added and the chancel arch inserted in the old walls. The south side of the choir was as originally made. The tower, which was built in the 14th Century, had a very unfinished appearance with the beginning of a spire, which was either not completed or taken down because unsafe—in this connection, Dugdale alludes to the fine spire. The old church had no clerestory, as was seen by the tower arch. Mr. Jones also drew attention to the Norman font, quite round and plain, and the wagon head and carved pannelled roof, one of the finest of its kind. There were 350 panels, all different. The registers contained an entry which he thought was unique, the curate in 1790 officiated at his own wedding, married himself.

The visitors were then shown by Mr. Jones the old market cross dating from 1500, the remains of the Shambles and some interesting old houses, including that at which Monmouth stayed (now the Co-op. bakery), and a visit was paid to the little museum to see an interesting geological collection given by Mr. John Phillis. The late curator, Mr. Halstead, said the collection varied from the Silurian down almost to the Bath Oolite strata, all the specimens being local. Shepton was nearly as old as Bath. It was on the Fosse Way, and Roman remains were found pointing to a villa or station. The foundations were found but no superstructure. Roman coins were in that collection from early date down to almost the end of Roman occupation. Many of the finds were made at the widening of the railway to Bath.

The Rector, the curator and Mr. Halstead were thanked by Mr. Grey.

After luncheon at the Hare and Hounds Hotel the members proceeded to Evercreech and visited the Church of St. Peter. The Rector of Bathwick (the Rev. H. Foley Napier), kindly acted as guide. He said the 15th Century was a prolific age for church building and the way in which they did it as a rule was to pull down everything that had been built before, or a great deal of it, and put in its place very beautiful little fanes with lofty clerestories, supported by light arcading and flanked by two aisles, large windows for rich glazing, open timber roofs enriched with carving and magnificent western towers, a feature of Somerset churches. All these features were evident in Evercreech, but the glory of its building was its tower, beautifully tapering and enriched by crown pinnacles with groups of smaller ones. Its long panelled top windows suggested the same builder as Batcombe and showed a great similarity to Wrington. Its height to the top of the pinnacles was 90ft.; it looked higher owing to its tapering, but Wrington was a few feet higher. The chancel which was untouched at the 15th Century rebuilding was 14th Century and obviously belonged to a much smaller building. The tower arch, a bold composition, was worthy of notice and the west gallery contained portions of the rood screen. The south aisle was built in 1843, before which there was a smaller aisle called the Park aisle.

Evercreech Park was one of the residences of the Bishops of Bath and Wells and became the residence of Lord Hopton.

At Ditcheat the members were received by the Rector (the Rev. H. H. Tripp), and the patron (Gen. Leir Carleton), the latter explaining the features of the building. The church of St. Mary Magdalen is cruciform; the central tower of which the lower portion is late 12th Century is the oldest portion. The chancel was rebuilt in the 13th Century and its windows are beautiful specimens of geometrical tracery, said to resemble closely those of Tintern. The transepts were rebuilt in the latter part of the 15th Century, when also the tower was carried a stage higher. The low and heavy arches of the central tower were left, but the restorers connected the new transepts with chancel by two large squints reaching down to the floor. At the same time the walls of the 13th Century chancel were raised and clerestory windows inserted. Attention was also directed to the ancient piscina brought to the church and the fine flat oak roof and boldly carved angel corbels.

Gen. Leir Carleton then took the members to see his house, the Priory, and its delightful grounds. Ditcheat, he said, was given to the Abbey of Glastonbury as early as 851. On the dissolution of the monastry it was sold by the Crown to Rafe Hopton, knight marshal to Henry VII. for £1,122. He resided at the Priory while he built the manor house near the church and also built Evercreech Park. Mr. Richard Leir, of Charlton Musgrave, bought the quarters of the property and the advowson and presented his grandson in 1699. This was the oldest family in England holding a rectorial manor ; for over 200 years a Leir had been rector of the parish. The Priory was built by John Gunthorpe, rector of the parish, Dean of Wells and holder of other livings and appointments.

The house, a charming specimen full of old furniture, oak panelling and historical paintings was then shown to the visitors and Mr. M. St. David Kemeys-Tynte thanked the General.

East Pennard, the home of the Napier family, was completely new ground for the Branch and here the Rector of Bathwick, with his intimate local knowledge, was a valued guide. Pengeard Minster, he said, was the name given to the manor of East Pennard, when in 950, King Edred gave it to Aelfgitha, a nun, who in turn gave it to Glastonbury Abbey. The name was of interest as it pointed to the fact that there was already a church there of some importance in the days of St. Dunstan. It might have been one of those minsters, such as Pitminster, Stourminster and Warminster, founded by St. Adhelm, who died in the neighbouring parish of Doulting in 709. The name "minster" might indicate a permanent settlement of a priest as compared with a mission station. Of the original Saxon church there were no traces. Of its Norman successor, however, they had a priceless remnant in the beautiful Norman font which would seem to be of late Norman or Transitional period. It had been thought, moreover, that the rough bases seen below the dressed stone bases of the nave piers might have formed parts of the wall of the Norman church which would probably consist of a nave only. The advowson along with that of St. John's, Glastonbury, was made over by

Bishop Saverie, 1192-1206 to the Sacristan of Glastonbury Abbey in about 1200 to facilitate its restoration after the disastrous fire in 1185. The present church, dedicated to All Saints', was entirely a 15th Century building, excepting, perhaps, the tower whose simple arch and rewal staircase suggested an earlier date, but its upper lights were Perpendicular in character and co-eval with the rest of the church. The tower was out of centre with the rest of the church which might indicate that it belonged to a smaller or narrower building. The timber roof, also of the 15th Century, was supported on angelic corbels, two of which bore musical instruments. The bosses were fine examples of floral carving. It had been pointed out that one boss represented a fern of a rare character, but which was to be found in the gully immediately below the church. The eastern bay of the nave roof had been richly coloured, honouring the Holy Rood, and in the apex above the Rood a fresco of censing angels (both restored by the speaker). There were still a few fragments of the old glass in the east window which had fine canopy work. The piscina, which was 15th Century, had had its bowl restored (also by the speaker). The south porch which was contemporary with the building had still its slots for "sporting the oak" and a Holy Water stoop. There was a scratch dial on the south wall near the porch. The registers were continuous since 1608 and included a book kept by the civil registrar chosen by the parishioners under the 1653 Act. In 1760 a whirligig and stocks were erected in the churchyard for the encouragement of good behaviour. Both instruments of torture had disappeared, but the hinges of the shutter placed across the North aisle, when they used to play fives, still remained. Thus while the sorrows of East Pennard had past into oblivion, the memory of its joys remained. Might it so always be.

Also present were the Rector (the Rev. R. Luxton) and Mr. Berkeley Napier of Pennard House. The Rector of Bathwick was warmly thanked by Mr. Grey.

A return to Shepton Mallet was made for tea. Bath being reached at 7 o'clock.

KEYNSHAM AND BRISTOL.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 1922.

Leaving Queen Square at 10.45 a.m., in two motor coaches, the members first visited the Roman villa excavations at Keynsham Cemetery. Dr. Arthur Bulleid, F.S.A., gave an interesting account of the excavation work, and at the close of his address was thanked on behalf of the members by the Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn.

The examination of the Roman villa in Keynsham cemetery was begun on September 11th, but after four weeks work it was found necessary to discontinue the excavations owing to bad weather and the lateness of the season. The Committee hope, however, to re-open the work in May or June next year. Although during the past 40 years a large part of the villa has been destroyed in digging graves, the recent excavations have shewn there is a considerable portion of it still remaining. We are unable as yet to say what was the plan of the villa or the extent of ground approximately covered by the buildings, but as the excavations have disclosed the foundations of a corridor 200 feet in length, we may safely conclude that it was a dwelling of considerable importance. As the villa was built on sloping ground it was necessary, in order to attain the required levels in the corridor, to have two flights of steps. Arranged along the north side of the corridor was a series of living rooms, one of which with its tessellated pavement lies beneath the modern Cemetery Chapel. The lower or eastern half of the corridor was paved with stone slabs, and the upper or western part with tesseræ. Although the tessellated pavements are much mutilated, enough remains to show the chief design was a series of panels of the Guilloche pattern in red, white and blue tesseræ.

At the west end of the corridor there are two important rooms, one of which has an apsidal end. These rooms together with their respective pavements await examination next year. Other foundations lying to the south of the corridor when traced may disclose the sites of more rooms and passages.

Amongst the things already discovered are numerous stone roofing tiles, hypocaust flue tiles, the stones of two round headed arches, pieces of carved stone belonging to a cornice, and fragments of coloured wall plaster. The smaller objects include, 16 Roman coins of 3rd or early 4th Century date, parts of two crucibles, one half of a small clay mould for casting a pendant or ornament, a complete bone pin, and portions of two others, part of a bronze bracelet, and a quantity of pottery in fragments.

The Church of St. Peter's, Bristol, was next visited. Mr. C. E. Boucher, one of the churchwardens, kindly acted as guide. St. Peter's claims to be the mother church of Bristol and is said to have been built prior to the Conquest. The only part remaining of the original building is the base of the tower, a massive piece of masonry—the walls of the belfry are said to be more than six feet in thickness. It formerly stood without the church. The first reliable record of the church is dated 1106, when the church was granted by Robert Fitzhamon, said to have been its builder, to the Abbey of Tewkesbury. The church was rebuilt after the Black Death, and owing to the proximity of the castle and north aisle was very narrow, with a lean-to roof. The original chancel was longer than the present one, extending 40 feet beyond, the space being now occupied by houses, under which are many graves and vaults. Attached to the chancel in 1326 stood a barbican, or outer defence, to one of the Castle gates, through which Edward II. escaped to Berkeley Castle where he was afterwards put to death. The extension of the church, owing to these restrictions, had to be on the south side. The present church consists of nave, side aisles, and chancel ; the pillars on either side of the nave are graceful columns of the 15th Century. Where the vestry now stands was originally a chapel to St. Catherine, and at the east end of the south aisle there was formerly a chantry dedicated in honour of the Blessed Mary of Bell-house (the fraternity is supposed to have been a guild or company of ringers). In the south aisle is a nicely ornamental tomb, erected to the memory of Richard Aldworth, who lived in the picturesque Elizabethian mansion, now known as St. Peter's Hospital (visited by the Society last year). There are other interesting tombs and brasses, and a piece of old armour hangs on the wall. In the churchyard lie the remains of Richard Savage, the poet, who died a debtor in Newgate prison. The churchwardens' staves of Queen Anne period were found in a fine state of preservation on the top of a tomb, and a treasured relic is a box of white wood bound with iron with a lock with three keys, all different, variously described as a pre-Reformation pyx or Host box, and as a receptacle for the church seal, which is unusual, the only other like it being at Bakewell Church, Derbyshire.

Mr. Boucher was warmly thanked by Dr. Fosbery.

After luncheon at Stuckey's Restaurant, the Archdeacon of Bristol (the Ven. C. H. Dickinson), vicar, met the members at All Saints' Church. (See notes on former visit, 1912 Proceedings, pages 164-5.)

The Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn expressed the thanks of the members to the Ven. Archdeacon.

St. John's Church was next visited. Mr. H. C. M. Hirst, who is a great authority on the church, acted as guide. (See notes on former visit, 1912 Proceedings, pages 167-8. Mr. Gerald Grey thanked Mr. Hirst for this informative address.

The day was concluded with a walk, under the guidance of

Mr. J. J. Simpson, who has before assisted the Society. He showed them first the St. John's conduit, one of the many in Bristol, the water for which was found by the Carmelite Friars, on Brandon Hill, and is brought by pipe, and the Merchant Taylors' Hall, in Broad street, with its fine doorway. Then they walked round the inside of the old city walls to St. Nicholas Church, and inspected the exteriors of the very interesting old houses in Queen Square, and the Seamen's Almshouses in King Street.

Afterwards the members returned to Stuckey's Restaurant for tea, Bath being reached at 6 o'clock.

MEETING AT THE ROMAN BATHS.

MR. A. J. TAYLOR, F.S.Arc.

By special request of several members who wished to visit the Roman Baths under expert guidance, Mr. Thos. S. Bush arranged a meeting there on Saturday, March 11th, at 11.30. About 90 members were present.

Mr. A. J. Taylor, Baths architect, kindly acted as guide. He first gave a sketch of the history of the Baths from the earliest period and then took the party round, explaining in detail the various points of interest.

Before separating, Colonel Mainwaring voiced the thanks of all present to Mr. Taylor for his lucid explanation of the various and important details.

The following notes are extracts from Mr. Taylor's pamphlet on the Baths* :—

About the middle of 1755 the old Priory or mediæval Abbey, which stood at the south-western corner of the existing Abbey, was pulled down to give place to a suite of baths for the Duke of Kingston. In removing the foundations, a number of stone coffins were found, and, on sinking further, the hot mineral water gushed forth and interrupted the work. The site being drained, Roman masonry was disclosed, and subsequently a number of baths and sudatories. That there lay buried still further remains of what must have been an extensive Roman bathing system, indications were unmistakable. The rectangular bath, now commonly known as the Lucas bath, was uncovered, and at either end of it a semicircular deep bath, entered by seven steps. The sudatories lay on the eastern side, together with a number of square baths and other apartments which apparently bathers used preparatory to entering the hot chambers. Some of these rooms were paved with flag stones, others were beautifully treated with various coloured tesseræ.

Though these were the earliest recorded discoveries actually connecting the hot springs with a Roman system of baths, there were important finds at a still earlier part of the Eighteenth Century, which later knowledge showed to have belonged to the south western part of the Roman establishments. The most noteworthy of these was the remarkably preserved bronze head, probably the finest specimen of its kind found in Britain. Other discoveries of importance occurred in 1790, in digging for the foundations of the present Pump Room. These discoveries, so far westward from those made in the middle of the century, removed ideas which had hitherto been shadowed by uncertainty to the region of established fact. Evidence was now absolutely conclusive that not only must the baths and adjoining buildings have been of great extent and importance, but, in some instances, of considerable splendour. Of the discoveries at this period the most noteworthy were the remains of what was obviously the pediment of a Roman temple. No mere unrecognisable, meaningless fragments, but so far perfect as to enable the pediment to be restored, if not with absolute certainty, at any rate to such a degree as to strikingly illustrate the character of the building which it originally adorned. Its most impressive feature, the central head, remains in an almost perfect state of preservation. It is a figure of extraordinary power, and for its wonderful vigour and almost barbaric intensity of expression is claimed to be one of the most remarkable monuments erected in any Roman province.

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* Notes on a previous visit to the Baths will be found in the Proceedings, 1917, page 222.

It was the year 1878 that marked the most important epoch in the re-discovery of the baths. Engineering works were at that time undertaken to remedy a leakage from the principal spring, and it was discovered that from this leakage the Kingston Baths, then in private hands, derived the whole of their supply. Interruptions ensued, but the Corporation enforced their rights in respect to the water escaping from the King's spring, and the draining of the site and other necessary works proceeded.

About the time that the great rectangular bath was opened up (1878–80), portions of the culvert of the outfall drain were discovered. This culvert proved to be of notable size and of fine workmanship, large enough to admit of a person standing in it erect. In 1883–4 the hypocaust on the western side of the circular bath was disclosed; in 1885 the circular bath itself in 1885–6 the latrines and circular hypocaust, and in 1887 the bath beneath the basement of the modern baths (west of the circular bath) were in succession explored. Subsequently in 1896, still further west, another rectangular bath was excavated under Stall Street.

From the stones and altars dug up from time to time (one stone bears reference to a definite date, A.D. 77-8), and the characteristics of a few of the sculptured remains, some vigorous occupation of Bath can be ascribed, with tolerable accuracy, to the last 30 or 40 years of the first century.

A culvert which was the outlet from the Roman reservoir was further explored in 1894, with the result that about 15 feet east from the wall of the reservoir a number of stone steps down to a sort of trough were disclosed, leading to the belief that the Romans used the spot as a dipping place. This belief is strengthened by the discovery of two metal flagons, a drinking cup and a number of personal ornaments. In the following year there was excavated still further eastward the wooden duct in which the numerous intaglios now in the Grand Pump Room were found. The clearing of this duct, which was traced to a distance of 150 yards or more, marked practically the close of activity, though it was then apparent that much interesting ground remained unexplored.

In spite of the havoc wrought by the builders of widely different periods, the remains of the system of baths which the Romans here built are to us to-day a profound reality. The symmetry of their first construction still remains almost unimpaired. The baths are filled from the same apparently inexhaustible source, drained by the culverts of the ancient use. The pavements surrounding them (14 feet wide in the case of the largest bath) though worn and uneven, afford promenade for the twentieth century sightseer. The floors are still covered with the sheets of lead, 40 lbs. to the foot, obtained by their original builders from the Roman mines in the Mendips. The steps to the larger baths are still practically intact. The recesses in which the bathers lounged, the diving stone from which they plunged into the thermal waters, can still be seen.

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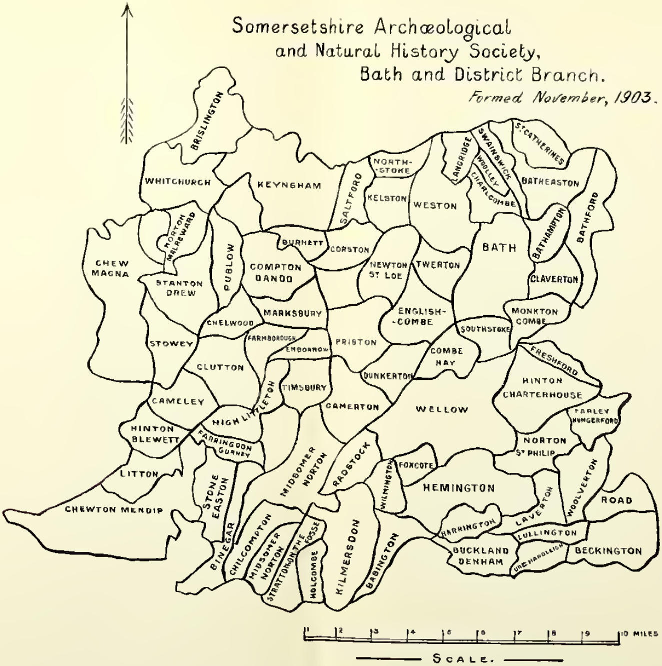
Somersetshire Archæological
and Natural History Society,
Bath and District Branch.

Formed November, 1903.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LECTURES, 1922.

FARLEIGH CASTLE.

Mr. George Lansdown.

The first lecture of the year was given by Mr. George Lansdown at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Saturday, January 28th, at 3 o'clock. The subject, Farleigh Castle, was well illustrated by lantern slides. Mr. Edward Segar was in the Chair.

Mr. Lansdown spoke on " Farleigh Castle and the Hungerfords." He had been acquainted with Farleigh Castle during the whole of his life, he said, and had visited it many times a year. At this particular time it was of more interest than usual because various works were being carried out by a Government department, which seemed destined to rob Farleigh Castle of much of its beauty. (Hear, hear). He held the view that the works now being carried out were works of restoration—but not of preservation—and he felt that a castle of such age should be preserved carefully by those who knewn its special peculiarities. His first picture was a copy of an old engraving of the castle, the frontispiece of a book written by Canon Jackson, and he spoke of the Hungerford family, which for three centuries " lorded it " over the immediate neighbourhood.

He referred to Sir Thomas Hungerford, who held (for a short time) the position of first Speaker of the House of Commons, and passed to a survey of the obtaining of a Royal license to convert de Montfort's house at Farleigh into a castle. A plan of the castle was shown, to indicate how strongly fortified the place became after the Hungerford family took possession, and the description given to the place in Leland's survey was quoted. The lecturer was also able to show his audience the only existent portrait (as far as he was aware) of Sir Thomas Hungerford. Pictures were shown of the fine old gateway as it was, and of the ancient chapel, both exterior and interior. The interior showed the miscellaneous collection of armour, much of which had since been removed. The ancient fresco, representing St. George and the Dragon, which has almost disappeared, was shown, and the pictures and description of the fine Jacobean pulpit—a very well preserved piece of work—proved highly interesting. The remarkably fine tomb, erected to the memory of Sir Edward and Lady

Hungerford, was described as being among the finest of the period. Lady Margaret Hungerford not only erected the tomb, but also embellished the chapel with family shields. Having seen pictures of the other tombs, and a memorial brass, the company was shown fine photographs of the crypt, with the remains of members of the family encased in lead.

Mr. Lansdown showed pictures of the Lady Tower, and recalled the tragic tales of old times which led to the belief that the tower was haunted. The West tower was shown as being now only a shell, and of this tower also the lecturer had a story to recount. From the castle, the " new " church, built in the reign of Henry VI., and dedicated to St. Leonard, was visited. He was able to show strong contrasts between the previous condition of Farleigh Castle and its present state, and observed that the pity of " restoring " the buildings was that one lost the idea of rich, mellow age, for the filling in of crevices with gravel and cement, made the buildings look as though quite new, and destroyed that soft colouring and eloquent shadow which gave some indication of the true antiquity of their construction.

At the close Mr. Segar voiced the thanks of those present to Mr. Lansdown for his interesting lecture.

MANORIAL DOVECOTES AND FISHPONDS AND EXCAVATIONS OF ROMAN VILLA, KEYNSHAM.

Rev. Ethelbert Horne.

There was a full attendance at the Literary Institution on Tuesday, December 5th, at 3 o'clock, to hear a lecture on the above by the Rev. Ethelbert Horne, which was illustrated by about 30 excellent slides and a few slides showing the excavations of the Roman Villa at Keynsham. Major-General Bradshaw was in the Chair.

Manorial Dovecotes and Fishponds.

The Lord of the Manor was an important person all through the Middle Ages, and beyond. At the present day he still enjoys many rights and privileges. Although the powers and possessions of this great man were the same everywhere, in the main, yet in places he seems to have had special privileges, which were outside those common to manors generally. Among the powers he possessed, and which seems to have been universal, was the right to have a Dovecote. It certainly sounds a peaceable possession—what more harmless than a dove? Unfortunately, however, the things he kept in his dovehouse were not doves but pigeons, which is a very different kind of bird, and one endowed with a voracious appetite. We must picture to ourselves then, the Lord of the Manor, having his dovecote inhabited by anything between five and eight hundred pairs of ever-hungry pigeons, who lived, not on food with which he supplied them, but with what they could pick up for themselves from the farms and gardens of the surrounding countryside. We are told, on what seems to be good authority, that one of the contributory causes of the great French Revolution was the destruction done by hordes of pigeons to the crops. The birds were kept by the great landowners, against whom the sufferers could obtain no redress. The farmers complained that they sometimes planted their fields as many as three times over, and each time flocks of pigeons came down on the land and pulled out the seed as fast as it was planted. Like complaints were made in this country, too. Bishop Hooper, writing in 1549, says: "Such as hath great forests or parks of deer or conies, that pasture and feed upon their neighbours' ground, or *columbaries*, whereat doves assemble and haunt, and feed of the poor's corn." When Hooper speaks of the "poor's corn," he does not only mean the farmer, but probably those who had cultivated small patches of the common land, to whom the loss would be much worse. Any attempt to act drastically with these ravenous pigeons was dealt with most savagely, for the birds must not be destroyed, no matter how much damage they did. One remedy and one only, the farmer had against these marauders, and that was to employ boys to scare them. Bird "keeping," or "scaring" or "starving," was a regular employment for boys in days when there was no School Attendance Officer. The boys were provided with wooden rattles which they swung round and round, or with a clapper made of two small pieces of board loosely bound together with a leather thong. They accompanied this noise with one they made by singing a ceaseless refrain in a high voice, and the words they used and the tune they sang are among the oldest of our country sounds. However interesting and even artistic some of the dovecotes may be, they do not represent one of the happiest sides of our rural life.

The manorial fishponds are on quite another footing. While no one but the Lord of the Manor might possess a dovecote, it seems probable, at least in places, that the right to a fishpond was not confined to him. Religious houses frequently had them, and they may be found in other places to which

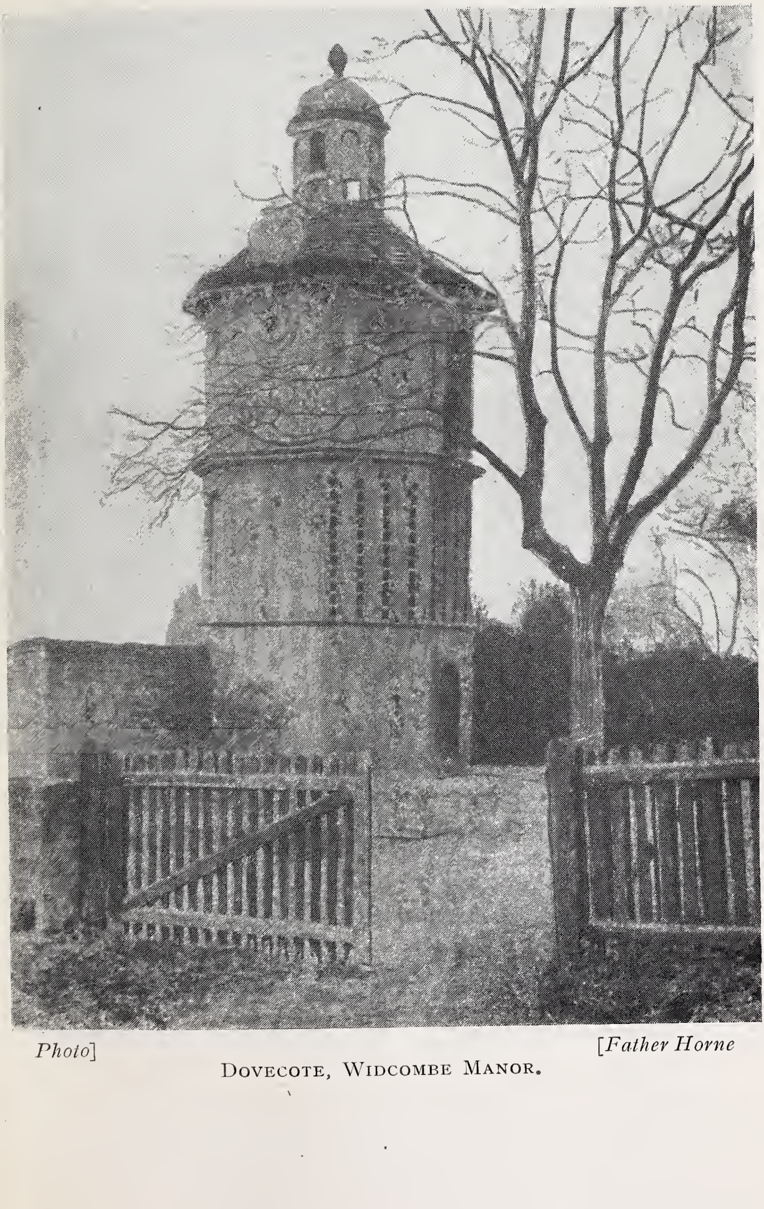
Manorial rights did not extend. Fishponds did no harm to the surrounding country, and at places far inland they were certainly a reat benefit to the inhabitants.

Dovecotes were built in two forms, either round or square. On account of the absence of those architectural details which help us to fix the date of more pretentious buildings, these dovecotes are, as a rule, very difficult to date. Hence it is not easy to say whether the round or the square form is the older in this country. Both the dovecotes at Pilton Manor House, and Ivythorn Manor, near Street, are rectangular and both belonged to Glastonbury, so that they were built probably late in the 15th century. On the other hand, the square specimen at Kelston is considerably later, and may be early 17th century. A round dovecote, like the one at West Bower, in the parish of Durleigh, built entirely of "cobb," may perhaps be older than either of the Glastonbury examples named above, but so vague are the indications to be gathered from the style, that any rigid fixing of dates is best avoided. We know that dovecotes have been in use from a very early age, and some parts of the country have buildings said to go back to Norman and even pre-Norman times. Palladius, who lived and wrote about the time of Theodosius, in the 4th century, composed a book in verse on *Husbondrie*. It was translated about 1420 by a monk of Colchester. He gives quaint directions for building a dovecote and for feeding the birds. One of the things to be guarded against was attack from rats and weasels. Palladius says :—

> "Yit for the wesel use another charme,
> Some of the rope wherewith hath strangled be
> Some men, pray I God lette it [be] never the,
> Hang part of that in every fenestell,
> And this wol from the wesel wite him well."

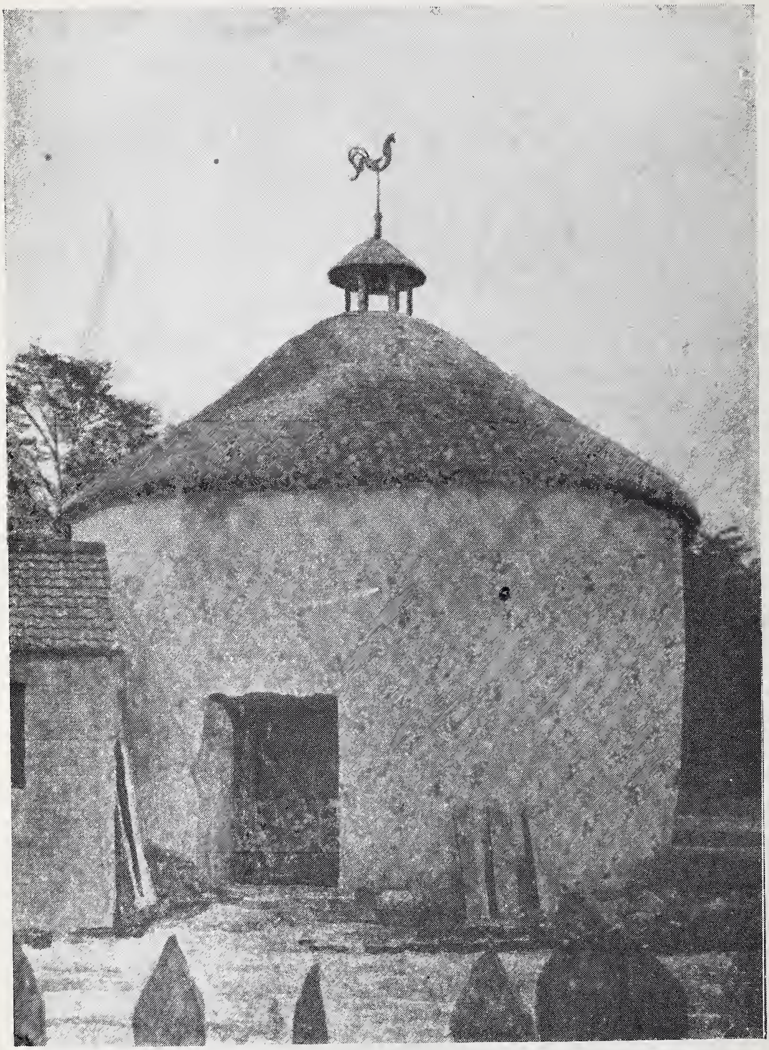
Plenty of evidence could be gathered from wills all through the Middle Ages, showing that dovecotes were in use and part of a man's ordinary possessions. John Baret, of Bury St. Edmunds, in 1463, says in his will : . . . . "also I geve and be qwethe to Willam Baret . . . . the gardynes, berne, and duffous that I purchased thereto. . . . ."

The arrangement of these dovecotes was much the same whether they were round or square. On the outside was one small door, and sometimes a second as well, fixed to the inner face of the wall. This would enable a person to enter or leave at such time as the birds were shut into the house, without their escaping. There was usually some means of ventilation, either by a window or by dormers in the roof—the latter



Photo] [*Father Horne*

Dovecote, Widcombe Manor.



Photo] [*Father Horne*

DOVECOTE, WEST BOWER.

was common in the circular form. On the apex of the roof was the covered opening by which the birds flew. It was called the glover, which must be a corruption of louver, or lover, a word variously pronounced in different parts of the country—in some dialects getting into "luffer." This opening could be closed from the inside with a trap-door, pulled into place with a cord. The whole of the interior of the dovehouse was occupied with nest-holes. These ran round the building in rows, one above the other. As a rule these holes were the shape of the letter L, so that the birds could turn round in them without breaking their tails. Between every three or five tiers of nests is a projecting ledge of stone, which served for the birds to alight on, but in a few dovecotes this arrangement is absent.

It will be seen that in some of the larger dovecotes there was accommodation for more than a thousand birds, and the question will naturally arise—for what purposes were such large quantities needed? It must be remembered that until the farmer had found out how to feed his stock on what he called "roots," he was unable to keep many animals through the winter. Only those known as "stores," whether cattle, sheep or pigs, were saved—except, perhaps, a few cows for milk—and everything else was slaughtered and salted down at the beginning of winter. Hence throughout the winter months the only meat to be had was salt meat. Anything that would compensate for this was most desirable, and as a consequence these large flocks of pigeons were kept to supply the want. The dovehouse was entered by a man with a short-handled net, and both the entrance door and the trap-door below the glover being closed, he swept his net about among the flying pigeons until he had secured enough. We can understand the full value of the expression "a flutter in the dovecote" when we think of seven or eight hundred scared and dazed pigeons flying in the confined space of the inside of their house as the net swept about among them. If something more delicate than a grown-up bird was wanted, the ladder that revolved on a pole in the centre of the building, could be mounted, and sufficient young ones taken from the nests to make "squab pies."

Very little seems to be known about the use or management of manorial fishponds. In days when the transport of fresh fish from the sea to distant places inland was an impossibility, a supply of fresh-water fish was a necessity. Abstinence from flesh meat in Lent, on Fridays, and at certain other times, was of strict ecclesiastical precept for everyone, and the civil law supported the church law by making it an offence to sell meat at such seasons. Hence a substitute had to be found, and fish was regarded as the most useful one. Whether the lord of the manor kept all his fish for his own use, or whether, as seems likely, he was bound to supply his tenants as well, it is difficult to know for certain, as records are scanty and not very clear. One thing we may gather from old cookery books is, that care was taken to make the fish from these ponds palatable. They were caught alive by being washed down to the end of the lowest pond, when a sluice was raised, and then kept in tanks of clean water for some days so that they might get rid of the mud of their pond. Here they were fed and fattened until they were wanted for the table. Nearly all the fishponds in Somerset are destroyed, and in a few years' time scarcely any will be left. An imperfect and very partial list is given after the list of Dovecots.

Dovecotes in the County.

Kelston.—In the farmyard to W. of parish church. It is about 25 feet square. Contains 890 nest-holes, which is probably the largest number in any dovecote in Somerset. On the outside is a heavy string-course, designed to prevent rats climbing the walls. The trap-door under the "glover" or exit-hole is in place. The building is in excellent condition.

Widcombe.—In the grounds of the fine Manor House. Probably built about the same date as the house, and in the same style. It is octagonal, and three stories high. Only the top story contains nest-holes, and these number 153. On the outside of the building are 132 nest-holes. This is the only dovecote in which *outside* nesting places have been seen.

There are fishponds in the valley below the Manor House.

Southstoke.—In the tithe-barn at the Manor Farm. The nest-holes are evidently a later addition to the barn, and hence this is not a separate building set apart for pigeons, but merely an adaptation of an existing one.

Wellow.—At the back of the fine old house, once the property of the Hungerfords, and now called the Manor Farm. This dovecot, which is circular in shape, is 20 feet in internal diameter. It contains 600 nest-holes, which are L-shaped. The exit-hole has been thatched over and the old cover removed.

Hinton Charterhouse.—In the upper story of the ruins of that part of the Abbey, called the Chapter House. A lining of nest-holes has been put into two rooms, one above the other. It was probably done at the time the present dwelling-house was built on the spot where the monastery had stood.

Norton St. Philip.—In the yard of the Manor Farm. Rectangular in shape, being 27 feet in length and 19 in width. It contains about 658 nest-holes. There is a round-headed window in the E. gable, which may have been the exit-hole, or there may have been the usual place in the former roof. The present one is new. The place is used as a pig-stye, and has been much spoilt.

Compton Martin.—In the roof of the parish church, over the chancel. There are several examples of dovecotes in church towers in different parts of England. This is the only one discovered in a church in this county, so far, but there may be others. Nest-holes may be found inside church towers, in the upper storey above the bells, and not infrequently each hole has been filled in, so that such dovecotes easily escape observation.

Pilton.—At the back of the Manor House, once the property of the Abbots of Glastonbury, is a square-shaped dovecote, 18 by 16 feet. It has been much repaired, and has been put to so many uses that the interior is somewhat destroyed. There were probably as many as 650 nest-holes in it originally, exceptionally large, and L-shaped. The exit may have been by way of the small door high up in the N. wall, or it may have been in the old roof. The present roof appears to be new.

Street.—Another Manor belonging to Glastonbury, known as Ivythorn, has a rectangular dovecote, 26 feet in length and about 16 in width. It has been converted into a coach-house, and a floor made through the middle of it. Large doors, to fit it for this purpose, have been inserted at the N. end, the original small door remaining at the S. The nest-holes, which are very large, are well made. It is difficult from the changes that have taken place to say how the exit was originally arranged.

Shapwick.—In the garden of the Rectorial Manor House, which again was a Glastonbury possession. This round dovecote has an internal diameter of 15 feet and contains about 444 nest-holes. The old roof was of thatch, and was replaced with slates, when some extensive repairs were done owing to part of the wall falling out. The three buttresses were also added at this time, and probably the window. The interior of this dovecote is not built with the care that some of the later examples are, the stone-work not being curved to suit the round shape of the building, but each stone is left square. The flock of Blue-rock pigeons, still in possession, are said to be descendants of the birds that settled there several hundred years ago.

Godminster.—About a mile S. from Bruton. This is one of the most artistic dovecotes in the county. It is square outside and octagonal within, containing about 500 nest-holes. The place, unfortunately, fell into a ruin, but the present owner is restoring it exactly as it was before.

Bruton.—The so-called dovecote on the top of the hill, outside the town, is really only a " look-out " tower, which had nest-holes to the number of about 80 or 100, added at a later period of its history.

Wincanton.—At Holbrook House, about a mile and a half W. from Wincanton, is a circular dovecote only 12 feet in internal diameter, built entirely of the narrow bricks of the period. It is rough-cast on the outside and its old roof would have been stone slabs, as one row now remains at the eaves. The nest-holes, built entirely with brick, are L-shaped, and 370 in number, so that this ranks as the smallest dovecote in this list. There is a beam across the interior from side to side, and in its centre an iron plate with a hole in it, in which the round ladder revolved. The floor could not be examined to find the corresponding hole.

Kingweston.—In the garden of the Manor Farm House, at the entrance to Kingweston Park. This circular dovecote is almost a ruin, being without roof, and its walls in bad repair. It contains about 450 nest-holes.

West Camel.—In the Vicarage Grounds, but belonging to the Manor Farm adjoining. It is a beautiful specimen of a round dovecote, being 15 feet in diameter and containing 540 nest-holes. Although the roof appears to be new, the glover over the exit seems old, so that it may be a careful restoration. There may have been dormers in the old roof, as there is no ventilation in the present building.

Long Sutton.—At what is known as Chard's Farm. It is a poor building of the square type, with an internal partition to give more nest space. It is 25 feet in length and 18 feet in width, and contains about 780 nest-holes. There are two exit-holes in the roof, covered with a dormer-shaped glover.

Stoke-sub-Hamdon.—In the farmyard of the curious old building known as the Priory Farm. The dovecote is circular, 17 feet in diameter, and contains about 500 nest-holes. The roof has gone, but the walls are in fairly good repair.

Norton-sub-Hamdon.—In the parish churchyard. The churchyard has been extended and the dovecote enclosed. It was attached as usual to the Manor. It is a fine building, in excellent repair, circular in shape, being about 14 feet in diameter, and containing 450 nest-holes. The exit-hole is covered with a glover of pronounced Jacobean design. The roof is of stone slabs, and the building itself of the local Ham Hill stone. Inside the door, on the left splay, is cut the date 1785.

BRIDGWATER.—In Durleigh parish, at West Bower Farm. This interesting dovecote is built entirely of "cobb," and is still in good repair. It is circular in form, 21 feet in diameter, and its mud walls are 4 feet in thickness. The nest-holes number 745, and are made square into the wall as if blocks of wood had been inserted when the material was soft, and withdrawn after the cobb had hardened. The roof is covered with thatch and the glover is of simple and primitive design. The clever construction of the roof, so that the weight may be spread evenly over these earthen walls, should be noted.

DUNSTER.—This is circular in shape and 15 feet in diameter. It contains between 500 and 600 nest-holes. The revolving ladder is still in place in this dovecote. The weather-cock on top has the initials G.L., which are the same as those on the weather-cock at the beautiful old Yarn Market, in the High Street. They stand for George Lutterell, and the date of the latter building is 1647. This would probably be about the date of the dovecote.

Other dovecotes are to be found at Witham Friary, Stoke Curey, Henstridge, Nynehead, Goathurst, Fivehead, West Coker, Montacute, North Petherton, Curry Rivel, and, perhaps, at Swell and Cathanger.

FISHPONDS IN THE COUNTY.

There are remains at Widcombe, Bathampton, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Chilcompton, Mells, Stoke St. Michael, Tolland, Bratton Seymour and Brislington.

General Bradshaw proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. Ethelbert Horne for his interesting lecture and for the excellent slides illustrating it. This was carried with acclamation.

Four dovecotes are illustrated herewith, and two more at Southstoke and Kelston are shown in the Proceedings 1918 and 1919,

NOTES.

BRASSES IN THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, FAIRFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

MR. H. PARRY.

One of the most striking objects in the Church of St. Mary, at Fairford, is the tomb of John Tame, the founder of the church, and his wife Alice. He died in 1500, and his wife in 1471, and on their tomb, which is near the choir, are their effigies in brass. The armour is that of the period, but the demi-placcate covering the lower part of the chest is unusually well displayed, and a lance rest is shown in front of the right shoulder. The lady's figure is conventional. Beneath their feet is an inscription in raised letters :—

ffor Jhūs love pray for me : I may not pray nowe pray ye
With a Pater noster and an Ave : That my paynys Relessyd may be.

There is a long inscription on the chamfer of the altar tomb, setting out names and dates of their deaths. Round the figures there are four shields :—

I. and IV. bear the arms of Tame, impaling those of his wife.

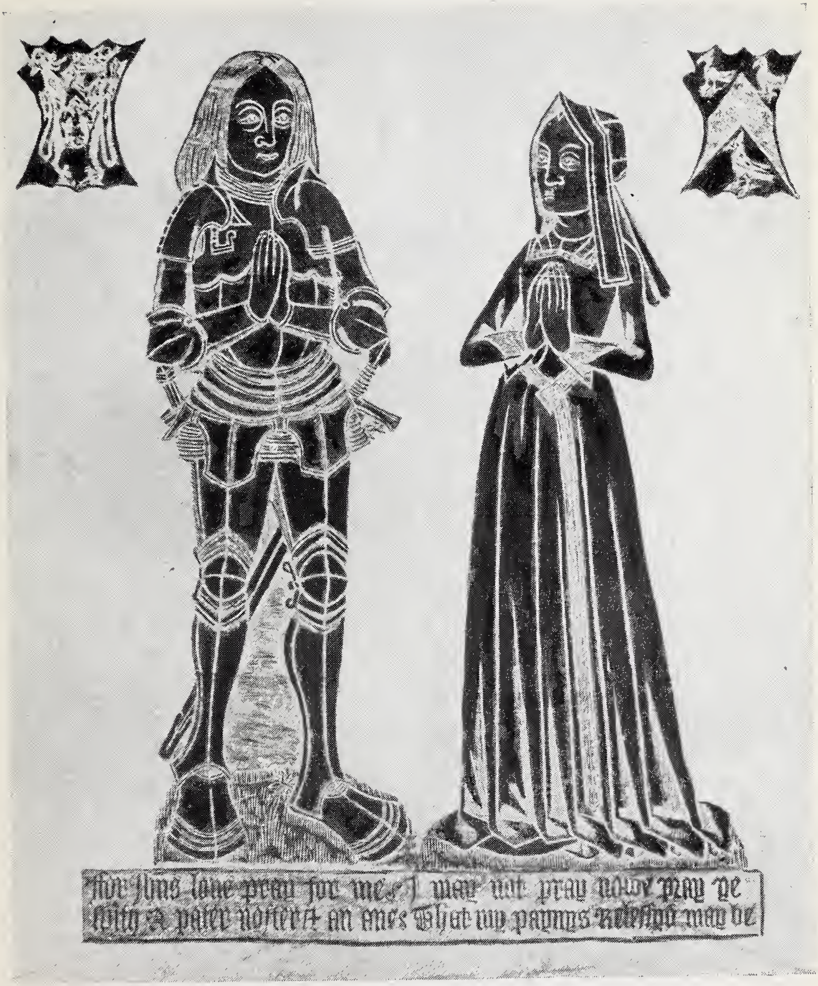
II. bears the lady's arms : argent a chevron between three lapwings.

III. bears the Tame arms : argent a dragon segreant vert combatant a line azure crowned gules.

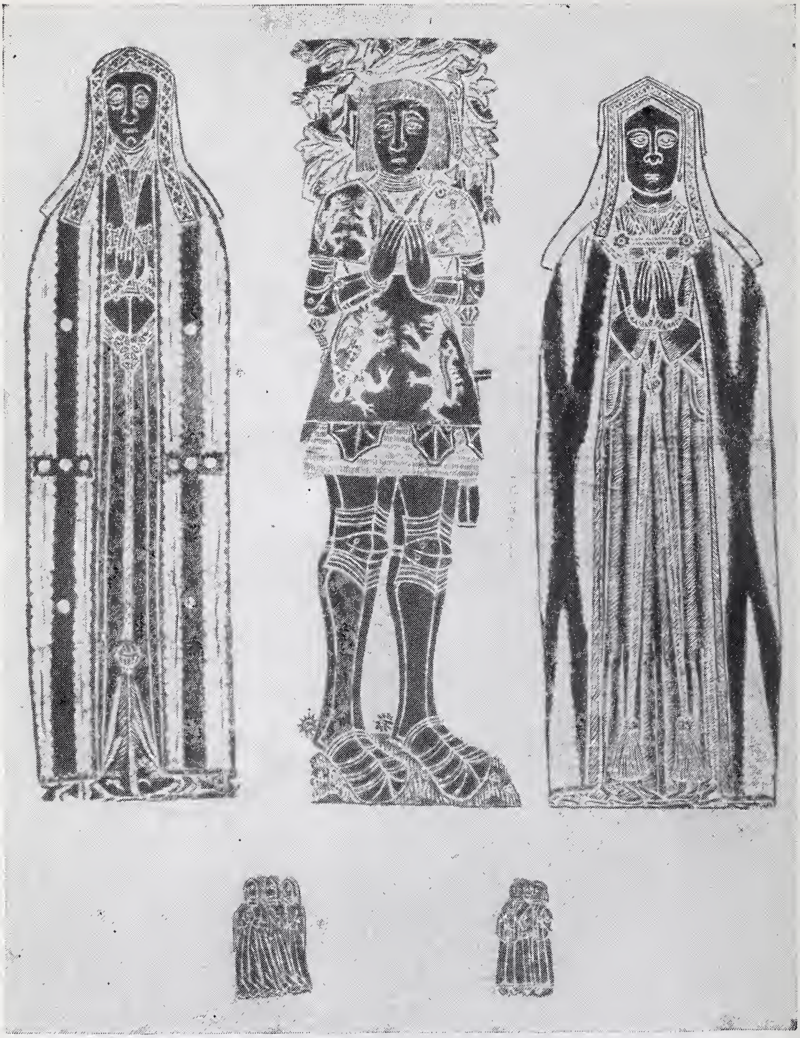
The other two brasses commemorate Sir E. Tame, son of the founder, his two wives, and his family. It is rather unusual to have two brasses in the same church for the same people.

The first of these is in the floor of the N. aisle, the gentleman with his head resting on his tilting helmet, surmounted by his crest, a nag's head, and wearing a tabard over his armour, between his two wives, Agnes Grevill and Elizabeth Tyringham. Below the family is represented as consisting of two boys and three girls.

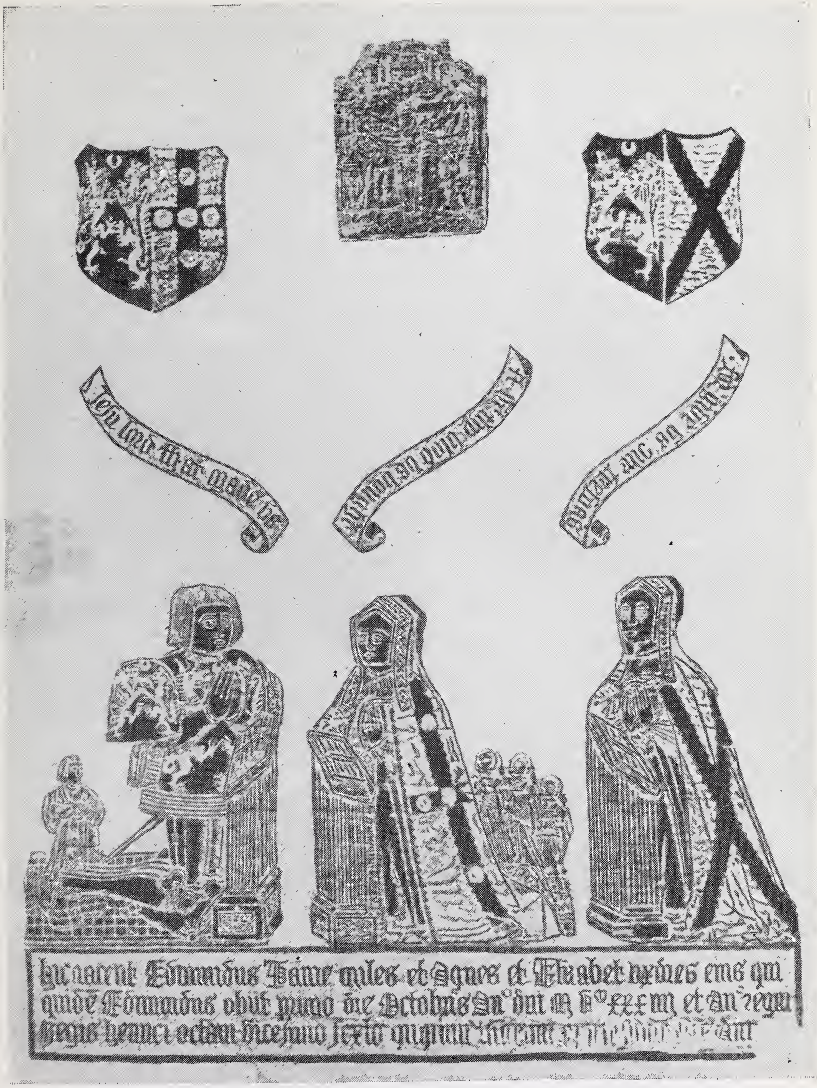
There are several points of interest about the heraldic trappings. In the case of the knight, his arms are shown, as


ffor Jhus loue pray for me I may nat pray nowe pray ye
With a pater noster & an aves that my paynys relessyd may be

JOHN TAME AND ALICE HIS WIFE, A.D. 1500.



SIR E. TAME (on Floor of N. Aisle).


hic iacent Edmundus Tame miles et Agnes et Elizabet uxores eius qui
quidē Edmundus obiit primo die Octobris An° dni M v° xxxiiij et An regni
Regis Henrici octavi vicesimo sexto

Sir E. TAME (on North Wall).

usual, on the shoulders, but they only appear on the lower part of the body, instead of covering the whole front of the garment.

The ladies of this date usually wore on their mantles the husband's arms on the dexter side, and their own on the sinister side, or else had them displayed quarterly, but in this case both ladies wear their own arms on each side of the mantle.

The other brass is on the N. wall, and shows the husband and two wives kneeling with their children (one of the sons has apparently died in the interval), again with full heraldic trappings, but in this case everything is arranged in normal fashion.

At the end of the inscription below this brass is the usual sentence: "Quorum animabus prapicietur Deus," which has been partially obliterated to save it from puritanical fury, though the words can still be read quite easily. This precaution was very common in London and the neighbourhood, but not so common in the country.

ROMAN SITE AT LIMPLEY STOKE.

Mr. A. T. Wicks.

The lane that runs from Midford to Limpley Stoke climbs diagonally the southern slope of the Midford Brook valley: before it reaches the crests, its course is for half a mile through a belt of woods, in which, on the right, or higher side the Great Oolite forms a broken line of low cliffs, known as Cleeve Rocks (6in. O.S. Map, Somerset, Sheet xiv S.W.). In one place, between the Rocks and the lane, and extending also to the lower side of the lane, is a narrow, almost level, natural platform. Here there is a small cultivated clearing, about 110 yards long by 35 yards broad, which has yielded numerous relics of Roman date, and although it is in the parish of Limpley Stoke, that curious salient of Wiltshire territory, which projects across the Avon and wedges itself in between Monkton Combe and Freshford, it seems worthy of the attention of the Bath Branch.

The site has been known for some years; in the years 1911–1914, Mr. G. L. Bulleid found on the surface quantities of pottery and a Roman coin (undatable). During the period September, 1921—September, 1922, a careful watch resulted in three more coins, over 4,000 fragments of pottery, and other relics. Amongst these, over 150 vessels were represented by rim-pieces, seven of them of Samian ware. On November 6th, by permission of the owner and occupier, Mr. Pickering, of Upland Farm, I was enabled to make a trial excavation to endeavour to prove the site. With the assistance of a colleague and three of the boys at Monkton Combe School, a day's digging was undertaken. On the following day, Mr. G. J. Grey kindly visited the site and advised the continuance of the work, but owing to lack of opportunity and assistance, very little further was done. A measured plan of the work has been made.

Altogether 64ft. of trench of average width 2½ft. were opened, 31ft. of which was in a continuous line parallel to the lane. The top earth to the depth of 18ins. was the black earth met with on occupied sites, and was in marked contrast with a yellow-red clay that followed. The level of the soil has recently been raised by the dumping of road-scrapings, and only about 6 inches of the earth was undisturbed, and owing to its proximity to the clay, the pottery in this was usually in a sodden decayed state.

It was hoped that distinctive traces of a Roman villa or other building would be uncovered, but the evidence was indecisive. Scattered throughout the trenches, at depths of 12ins. and more, were numerous Oolite stones, a few of them hewn, others rubble stones, and some of them fired, which were probably the debris of a building; there were also fragmentary pieces of a foreign sandstone, presumably the remains of flagstones. A more definite indication was the bottom course of a wall, 20 inches wide, at a depth of 14 inches, which ran across the field at an angle of about 60 degrees with the lane, and faced N.E. This was not followed up, but left *in situ*. The direction of this wall was a surprise, and a short continuation would bring it to the lane which is here a foot below the surface of the field. It is not improbable that the wall crosses the lane, as since then, J. B. Tracey, one of my helpers, has brought me several fragments of pottery, laboriously collected from exiguous rabbit-scrapes, which came from across the lane. On the other hand the levels are very unfavourable for a continuous building extending both sides of the lane.

The following relics have been obtained:—

Coins.—On the surface: 2nd brass of Probus and two undatable 3rd brasses (one found by J. B. Tracey). In the excavations: Two 3rd brasses of the Constantine period (GLORIA EXERCITUS), one 3rd brass of Valens, or Valentinian, and one barbarous imitation.

Metal.—Large-headed iron nails; fragments of bronze bracelet; fragment of a bronze knife.

Stone.—Lower stone of rotary quern, maximum diameter at "spout," 11 inches, thickness 4 inches, found at a depth of 17 inches. This is of a pinkish, micaceous grit, with embedded quartz pebbles, and has been used also as a grindstone. On the surface: A few artefact flint flakes, one only with secondary chipping; cuboidal flint cone heavily used as a strike-a-light.

Pottery.—Black, grey, red and cream-coloured ware in large quantities, but very fragmentary. Only one vessel could be partially reconstructed; this was a black vessel with a roll moulding at the rim, and with a design of intersecting arcs. Only very small fragments of Samian ware; one piece has the festoon and tassel ornament.

Miscellaneous.—On the surface: Fragments of polished and sawn bone; a few fragments of wall-plaster, and some fragments of a surfaced cement of a maroon colour, which seem to have been part of a pavement. No tesseræ, roof-tiles or brick-tiles.

ROMAN COFFIN, WALCOT PARADE, BATH.

THOS. S. BUSH.

On April 20th, 1922, Mr. Pike informed me that his brother-in-law, Mr. Oakley, had unearthed a stone coffin in the garden at the back of his house, 8, Walcot Parade. The next day I called to see it and took measurements. The coffin is round at head, square at foot. It is 3ft. 10ins. long, 14ins. wide at head, 7ins. at foot, 7½ins. deep all inside measurements, 2½ins. thick. It must, of course, have been made for a young person. The cover is 4ft. 6ins. long, 4ins. thick, rough on the upper side, the lower side has a projection round the edge about 1½ins. wide by 1in. deep, presumably to keep it in place on the coffin, inside this is a flat surface, 2ins. wide, where it would rest in the coffin; the centre had been roughly tooled. No bones were found in the coffin, but on the cover was a skull without the lower jaw, evidently of an elderly person. A few very small fragments of pottery, Samian, black and grey, and parts of two heavy handles were dug up.

The ground is steep at the back of the house. No doubt it originally continued so down to Fosse Road, when the house was built there was probably a considerable disturbance of the ground, so it may have been that the coffin was then unearthed, and the skeleton—presuming there was one—taken away with that of the elderly person. The coffin has, since writing the above, been entirely broken up.

Several coffins have been discovered in Bath near the Roman roads, so it is not surprising to find one on this site. The last Roman interment brought to light alongside the Fosse Road in Bath was at Lambridge, in 1911. This consisted of the skeleton of a woman in a wood coffin within a sarcophagus. This is described in our Proceedings for that year, page 114.

The Treasurer in account with the Bath and District Branch Somerset Archæological Society for 1922.

1922. Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	132	14	9
,, 229 Members' Subscriptions	57	5	0
,, 1 ditto paid for 1923	0	5	0
,, Sale of Proceedings	1	17	6
,, Excursions	0	15	3
,, Dividends on 4½% War Loan	2	5	0
	£195	2	6

1922. Cr.				£	s.	d.
By William Lewis & Son, Ltd., Printing and Illustrating Proceedings, 1921				30	12	0
,, Fyson & Co., Ltd., Receipt Books, Circulars, etc.				6	15	11
,, Two Lectures, Hire of Rooms, Lantern and Fees				4	0	0
,, Postages, Proceedings, Circulars, etc.				4	2	6
,, Donation, National Trust				1	1	0
,, Subscription, Somerset Archæological Society				1	1	0
,, Hire of Rooms, Literary Institution				0	15	6
,, Cheque Book				0	4	2
,, Meeting at Roman Baths				1	2	0
				49	14	1
,, Balance 4½ per cent. War Loan	50	0	0			
,, ,, War Certificates	38	15	0			
,, ,, L.C. Westminster and Parrs	56	13	5			
				145	8	5
				£195	2	6

Audited and found correct—EDWARD SEGAR,
15th December, 1922.

THOS. S. BUSH, *Hon. Treasurer.*

The cost of the Proceedings for 1922 not included in the above.

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH
SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

1922.

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1920 Brydges-Barrett Mrs., 14, Raby Place.
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1919 Brymer Mrs., 13, Marlborough Buildings.
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1922 Byrchmore Mrs., 12, Beaufort West.

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1908 Gervis Miss Dora L., 15, Royal Crescent.
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1920 Green Miss, 12, Lansdown Crescent.
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1915 Tanner J. H., Esq., 12, Beaufort East.
1915 Tanner Mrs., 12, Beaufort East.
1904 Taylor A. J., Esq., 18, New Bond Street.
1921 Thackwell Brig.-General, Perrymead Cottage.
1903 *Thatcher A. A., Esq., Midsomer Norton.
1903 *Thomas C. E., Esq., 4, Percy Place (Deceased).
1920 Thomas Miss H. T., Derwent House, Weston.
1920 Thomas Miss T., Derwent House, Weston.
1921 Thompson Miss Edith, Beaconfield, Lansdown.
1921 Thompson Miss E. Perronet, Beaconfield, Lansdown.

1920 Thring Mrs. C. B., Ormonde House, Sion Hill.
1920 Thring Miss Marjory, Ormonde House, Sion Hill.
1903 *Tite Charles, Esq., Stoneleigh, Taunton.
1921 Tucker Mrs. Allon, 9, Green Park.
1904 Tyte W., Esq., 7, Bloomfield Crescent.

1921 Varley Rev. F., Filleigh, Bathwick Hill.
1921 Varley Mrs., Filleigh, Bathwick Hill.
1921 Varley Miss, Filleigh, Bathwick Hill.
1920 Vibert Lionel, Esq., Marline, Lansdown.
1920 Vibert Mrs., Marline, Lansdown.

1914 Wace Henry, Esq., St. Winifreds.
1914 Wace Miss, St. Winifreds.
1903 *Waldegrave Right Hon. the Earl, Chewton Priory.
1913 Walker Robert, Esq., F.R.G.S.
1916 Walker W. A., Esq.
1910 *Wardle F. D., Esq., 5, Vane Street.
1920 Watson Miss A. E., Swainswick Cottage.
1904 Way Miss H. S., 1, Rosslyn Road, Newbridge Hill.
1920 Wayne Miss, 12, Bladud Buildings.
1920 Webb Mrs. Gillum, 11, Lansdown Place, East.
1903 *Whittuck E. A., Esq., 77, Audley Street, W. 1.
1922 *Wicks A. T., Esq., Monkton Combe School.
1922 Willis Colonel C. H., C.B., 94, Sydney Place.
1917 Wilkinson Lady, Deepdene, Bathampton.
1904 Williams D. Prout, Esq., 3, Charles Street.
1913 Wills J. H., Esq., Potticks House, Frankleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1913 Wills Mrs., Potticks House, Frankleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1913 Wills Stanley, Esq., 14, Royal Crescent.
1913 Wills Mrs., 14, Royal Crescent.
1908 Wood Miss Ellen, 38, Combe Park.
1914 Wood Miss Margaret, 59, Combe Park.
1921 Wright E. M., Esq., Lower Swainswick House.

1911 Young B. W., Esq., 1, Stanley Villas, Camden Road.

SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH

1923.

BATH:
PRINTED AT THE HERALD PRESS.

BATH AND DISTRICT BRANCH
SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

REPORT, 1923.

THE Committee are pleased to note continued interest in this Branch as shewn by there being 40 candidates waiting admission. Commencing the year with 227 members, there have been 21 vacancies, including 5 deaths; the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Scott at the close of the year has not been filled; admitted 23, thus closing the year with 229.

With this issue will be found the Contents of this and the four previous years' Proceedings, forming a volume. This makes the fourth volume of 5 years each, covering a period of 20 years. Any member wishing to obtain a back copy will please apply to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

The account of the Annual Meeting, Earl Waldegrave, President, in the chair, will follow this Report.

The thanks of the Committee are due to Mr. Gerald Grey for arranging the six excursions and securing competent guides, to Mr. Thos. S. Bush for arranging lectures by Mr. Bothamley and Mr. Savory. Mr. Parry has given us the privilege of illustrating another of his rubbings of brasses, an excellent one in the Church of St. Peter, Dyrham, with notes. Mr. A. J. Taylor reports the discovery of a coffin with skeleton near St. John's Church, Bathwick, and Mr. A. T. Wicks on further discoveries at Limpley Stoke. We are indebted for photographs to Miss Newham, Miss Rodman, Dr. Fosbery and Mr. Savory, illustrating his lecture.

Thanks were again due to Mr. Thos. S. Bush for carrying out the duties of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer and to Mr. Edward Segar for kindly auditing the accounts.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1923.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Wednesday, March 7th, 1923, at 3 o'clock. Present, Earl Waldegrave, President, in the chair. Committee, Mr. G. Lawrence Bulleid, Colonel P. P. Leigh, Mr. Edward Segar, Mr. Gerald Grey (hon. excursion secretary), Mr. Thos. S. Bush (hon. secretary and treasurer), the Rev. F. C. Bayliss, Miss E. A. Bridgman, Miss M. Bridgman, R.M.S., Mr. and Mrs. Brydges-Barrett, Mrs. Thos. S. Bush, Mrs. Byrchmore, Mr. James Calder, Mr. P. E. Capes, Mrs. Clayton, Miss Dettmar, Miss Sybil Ford, Mr. Ingham, Miss G. de Lancey Jay, Mr. Fizroy Jones, Mr. and Mrs. King, Miss Knight, Mrs. G. S. Nash, Miss Newham, Colonel Nowlan, Dr. D. A. O'Sullivan, Miss Rodman, Miss G. E. Salmon, Miss L. M. Salmon, Miss Strangways, Mrs. Allon Tucker, Mr. Wace, Mr. Prout Williams, Colonel Willis and Miss E. M. Wood.

On the suggestion of the President it was agreed to take the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting as read, these having already be printed in full in the Proceedings. The President, in proposing the adoption of the Report and Accounts, said the Branch was in a flourishing condition, both with regard to finance and the number of Members. Towards the close of the year three members passed away, leaving a total of 227. Early this year, 15 resigned and 18 had been elected to fill vacancies, there still being 20 candidates on the waiting list. The Committee had decided not to admit any more members at present.

He also referred to the excursions having been most successful in spite of the eccentricities of the weather, and said it was gratifying to find Mr. Bush and Mr. Grey at their old posts.

There had been some very interesting Roman finds during the year—remains at Limpley Stoke, a coffin at Walcot Parade—and a villa at Keynsham. Another feature of the report was the excellent little map showing the ground covered by the Branch.

Mr. Henry Wace seconded the adoption of the Report and Accounts. This was carried.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously :

Colonel P. P. Leigh proposed and Dr. Curd seconded the re-election of Earl Waldegrave as President.

Mr. Segar proposed and the Rev. F. C. Bayliss seconded the re-election of Lord Strachie, Capt. Foxcroft and the Rev. Preb. Boyd as Vice-Presidents.

The President proposed and Mr. Brydges-Barrett seconded that the following form the Committee: Major-General Bradshaw, Mr. G. Lawrence Bulleid, Rev. Ethelbert Horne, Lieut.-Colonel P. P. Leigh, Mr. George Norman, Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn, Mr. M. H. Scott, and Mr. Edward Segar.

Dr. O'Sullivan proposed and Mr. Calder seconded the re-election of Mr. Thos. S. Bush as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Bush, thanking the Members for his re-election said that he could only repeat what he had for many years stated—that he would do his best for the Branch.—He hoped all the Members would appreciate the Proceedings just issued, which contain a lot of interesting matter and an unusual number of illustrations, the cost, of course, is considerable, amounting to four shillings each copy.

Mr. Lawrence Bulleid proposed and Mr. H. M. Ingham seconded the re-election of Mr. Gerald Grey as Hon. Excursion Secretary. Mr. Grey thanked the Members for his re-election and said the following excursions were suggested for the coming season: April 23, Dyrham and Marshfield. May 28, Nunney, Great Elm, Mells and Holcombe. June 21, Knook, Codford St. Peter, Little Langford and Stonehenge. July 16, Crewkerne, Chard and Somerton. September 17, Pickwick Manor, Malmesbury, and Tetbury. October 15, Bristol. He also mentioned that excavations at the Roman Villa, Keynsham, would be resumed in May under the supervision of Dr. Bulleid, the Rev. Ethelbert Horne and himself.

Mr. Bush mentioned that he had resigned the position of Representative of the Branch on the Council of the Parent Society and moved that the Rev. Ethelbert Horne be elected in his place. This was seconded by Mr. Grey and carried unanimously.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Earl Waldegrave for presiding. Proposed by Colonel Willis and carried with acclamation.

Earl Waldegrave, in acknowledging the vote, expressed the hope that all who had not done so would make a point of seeing the Somerset War Memorial in Wells Cathedral and especially the beautiful Book of Remembrance, which could always be inspected on application to the head verger.

EXCURSIONS.

DYRHAM AND MARSHFIELD.

Monday, April 23rd, 1923.

There was a record attendance of members, and the weather again held good, the afternoon being bright and warm. The members were received bv Mrs. R. W. Blathwayt and the Rev. W. E. Blathwayt (in the absence of Mr. R. W. Blathwayt).

The Rev. W. E. Blathwayt, who acted as guide, expressed the regret of his brother that he had been called away through an engagement in Kent. Like most old houses, he said, Dyrham Park was of various dates. Downstairs were traces of Tudor work, and at the back of the wing was an older frontage than either on the East or the West. No doubt there was an older Tudor house there built of Gloucester, the local oolite stone, with gables along the top story. Dyrham was granted to the Newmarches after the Conquest. Their heiress married into the Russels, the last of whom was Sir Maurice, who died in 1401. His heiress married Sir Gilbert Dennis, a member of a family which owned a great deal of property in Gloucestershire—Syston was built by them. Dyrham was sold in 1571 to George Wynter, brother of William Wynter of Lydney, and father of Vice-Admiral John Wynter, who sailed with Drake. His great-grand-daughter married William Blaythwayt, Member for Newton from 1685-8, and for Bath in 1695, who was Secretary of State for War to William III. in Flanders. He set to work to alter the house.

The front they saw as they came through the park, was built by him, but not from the ground, as was first supposed. The design of Talman was fitted on to the old front, which was altered as required, the upper storey, with gables becoming the present storey with balustrade above, the windows being cut and widened to fit the design. William Blathwayt lived there till 1717, and he collected a great number of the pictures they saw there.

(See former visit of the Bath Branch to Dyrham Park for description of pictures and furniture in vol. of Proceedings for 1911, pages 81-2).

Before leaving, Col. H. P. P. Leigh warmly thanked Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Blathwayt, and the Rev. W. E. Blathwayt, and expressed the Society's regret at the absence of Mr. Blathwayt.

By the private passage way out of the library, the members then entered the parish church of St. Peter adjoining. (See former visit of the Bath Branch to Dyrham Church in vol. of Proceedings for 1911, pages 82-3.)

Marshfield was next visited, and a brief inspection made of the Marshfield almshouses, built in the reign of James I. They were (according to notes supplied by the Vicar, and read by Mr. Gerald Grey), a gift to their native town from two Marshfield brothers, who had sought their fortunes in London in the reign of Elizabeth and had become prosperous merchants, the elder, Nicholas Crisp, being a member of the Skinner's Company and the younger, Ellis Crisp, a member of the Salter's Company, which still administer charitable bequests of his. They bought an acre of ground and erected upon it the present almshouses, " for the perpetual harbouring and relief of eight poor householders of the town and parish of Marshfield, from time to time for ever." They divided it into " eight several dwellings or lodgings," and vested the property in 12 Feoffees, who in conjunction with the Bailiff, Vicar, churchwardens, and overseers, had the management and control.

After tea at the Catherine Wheel, an interesting old inn at which the London and Bristol coaches used to change horses, the Vicar of Marshfield (the Rev. L. O. Asplen) kindly acted as guide to the Church of St. Mary, as well as showing them the fine old town mace ; now in the care of the present lord of the manor, Major Pope, of Ashwick Hall, who had permitted its exhibition to the Society.

Many have wondered how a place on the top of the hills could be " marshfield," and the Vicar explained that the name denoted St. Mary's Field, the oldest spelling being Meres-field.

The Church was built by the Monks of Tewkesbury, in the reign of Edward IV. The Abbey of Tewkesbury had received the tithes and pastoral care of the town in 1125 and in 1242, the Bishop of Worcester, during an episcopal visitation dedicated a church there.

The church had a central tower with transepts; the north and south arches of the crossing remained in a blocked condition to tell the tale. This Early English church, however, was replaced in 1470 by the present one. The original central tower was demolished and the aisles and chantry chapels widened to the original length approximately of the transepts. The present Perpendicular tower, a stately landmark for miles, was erected at the west end and the chancel was extended. The four square-headed windows of the north aisle dated from 1360, and must have been an addition to the Early English structure and retained when the church was demolished.

The Church unfortunately had undergone two drastic restorations, in 1860 and 1902. The pulpit was Jacobean and the brass chandelier 18th century, bearing the date 1725. The font, with quatre fleurs with shields, originally painted, was probably 15th century. It had the mark of the lock and hinge, and the nails to each were still there.

Till quite recently, added Mr. Asplen, there were in the Angel Inn, built in the wall, evidently for safety, two sculptured portions of an alabaster reredos, belonging to the church.

The Vicar was thanked for his kindness by Mr. H. M. Ingram.

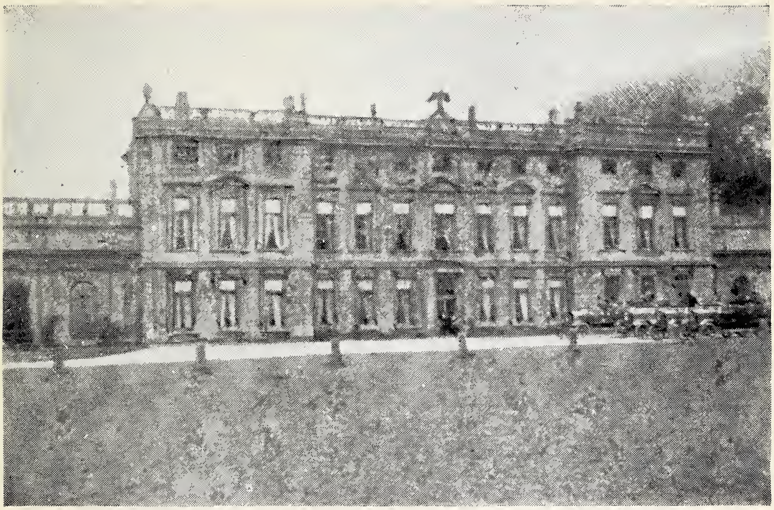
Bath was reached at 6.30.

MELLS, NUNNEY AND HOLCOMBE.

Monday, May 28th, 1923.

The keeness of the members was shown by the large attendance who filled four Blue motor coaches in addition to private cars. It was a delightful day, despite the cold—fortunately the rain which threatened in the morning held off—and the members enjoyed one of the most interesting programmes.

The first stop was at Mells, where Sir John Horner himself greeted the members. The visitors were at once impressed by the beauty of the Manor House, its lovely lawns and gardens. The old Manor House is the ancient home of the Horner family, who are living in it again. It is the remaining portion of a much larger building, part of which was pulled down over a hundred years ago when the remainder became a farm house and then a school. The house, said Sir John Horner, originally consisted of two parallel wings (of which the present house is one), joined across in the centre in the form of the letter H. They knew of the other wing for certain, because two or three years ago, in the abnormally dry weather the foundations of the lost wing showed up quite clear on the lawns. They did not come up under the gravel, of course, so the question of the cross-piece could not be settled thus. The gables dated the house as Elizabethan. Mells belonged to the Abbot of Glastonbury and his ancestor (Mr. Horner, of Cloford), following the Dissolution of the Monastries,

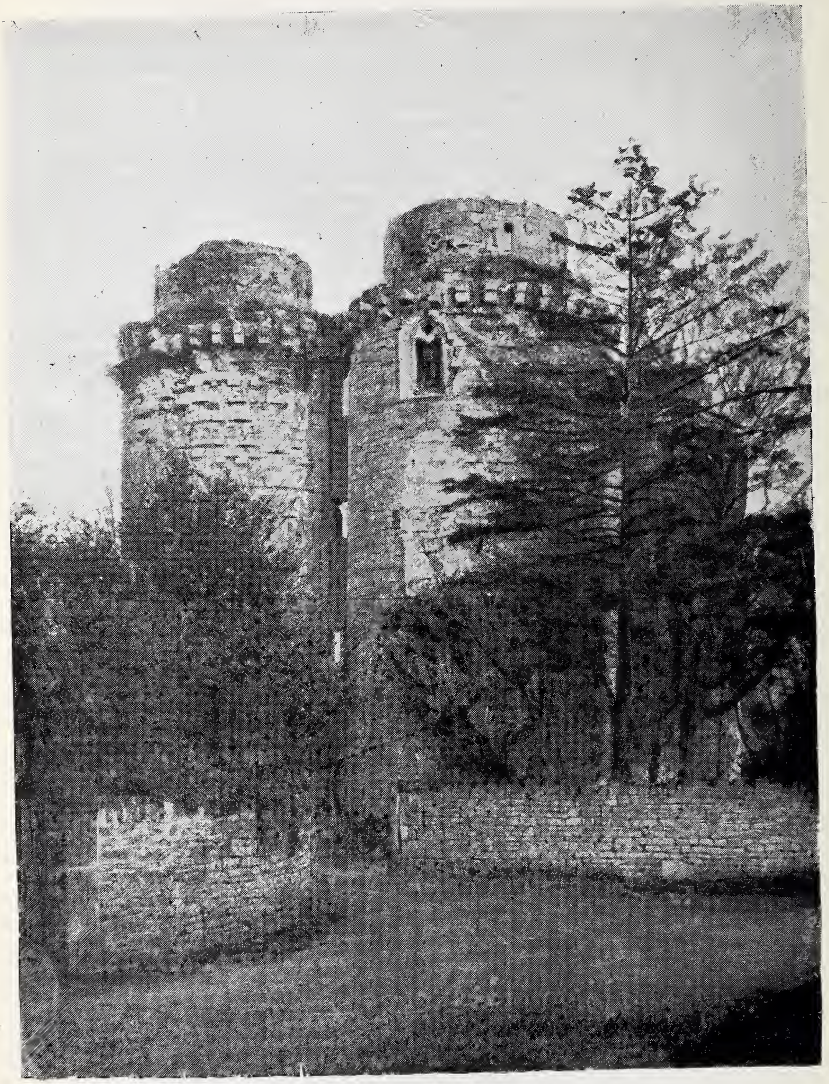


Photo] [*Miss Rodman.*

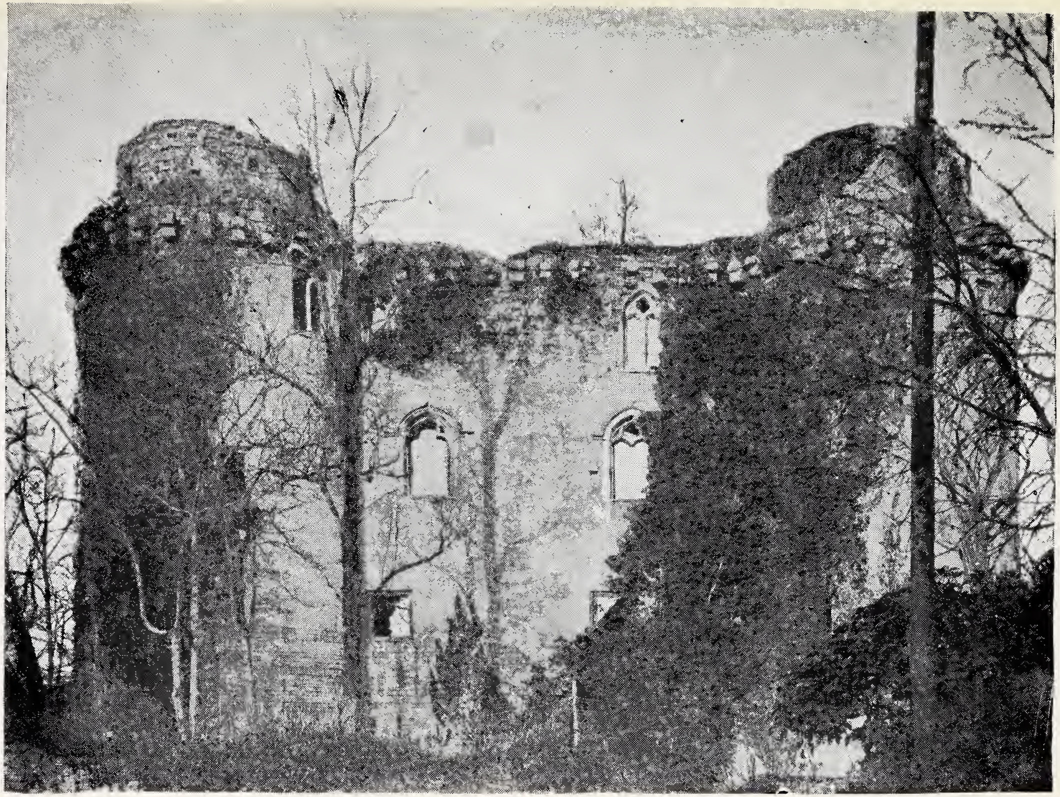
DYRHAM PARK.

Photo] [*Dr. Fosbery.*

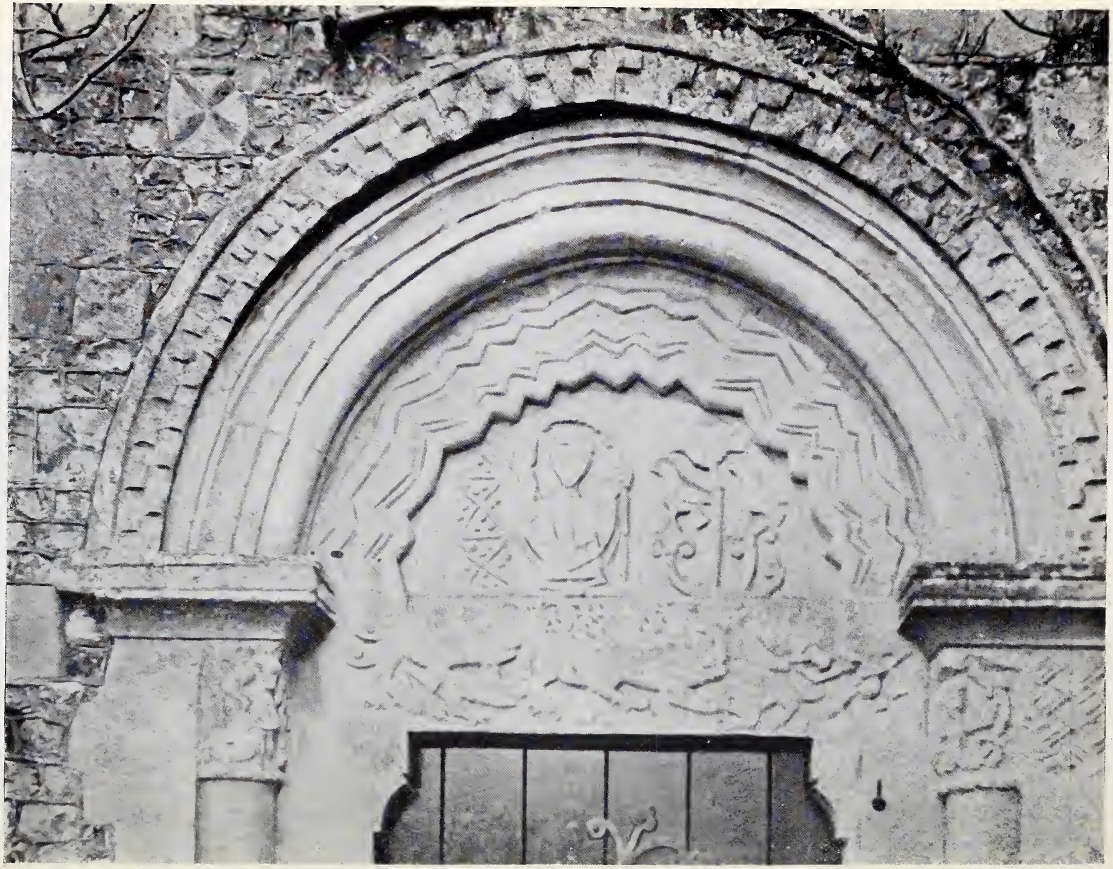
STONEHENGE.



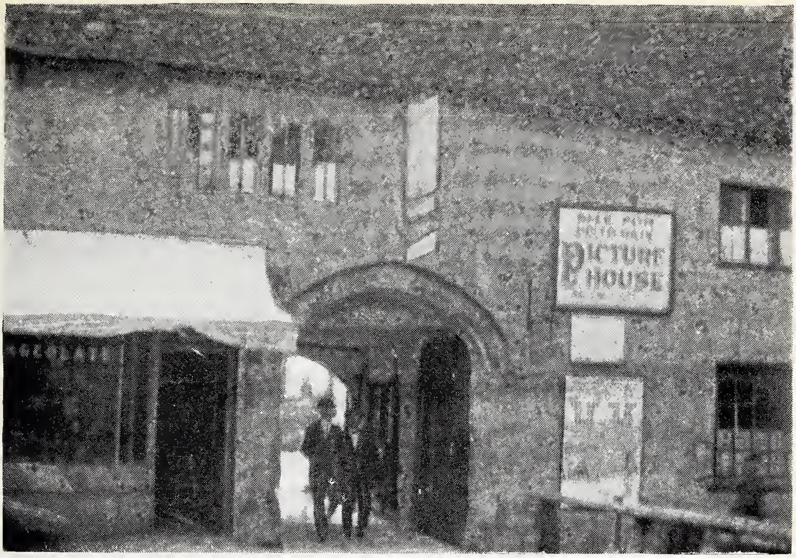
Photo] NUNNEY CASTLE FROM S.W. [Father Horne.



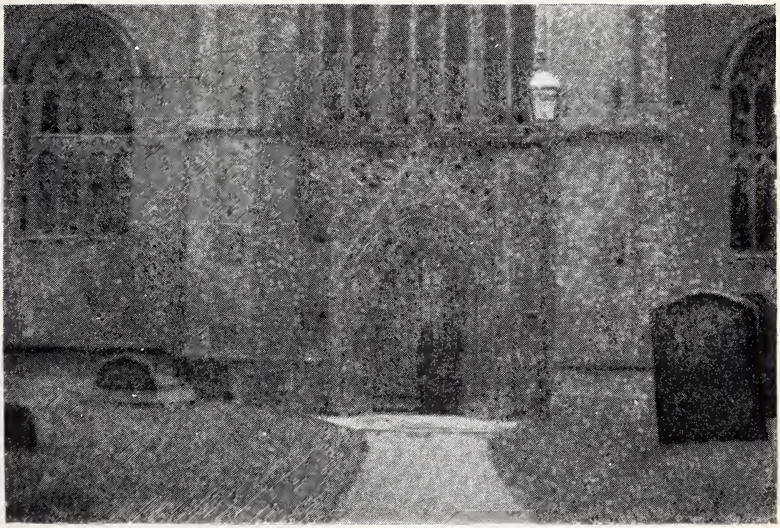
Photo] NUNNEY CASTLE FROM S.E. [*Father Horne.*



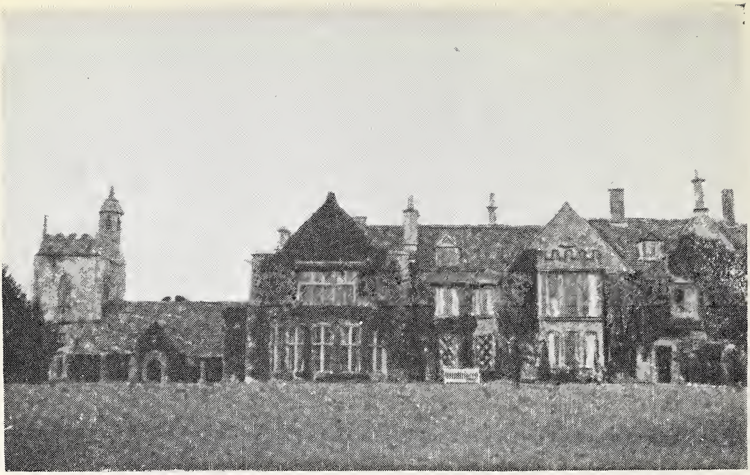
Norman Tympanum (South Door) St. Nicholas, Little Langford.


PICTURE HOUSE

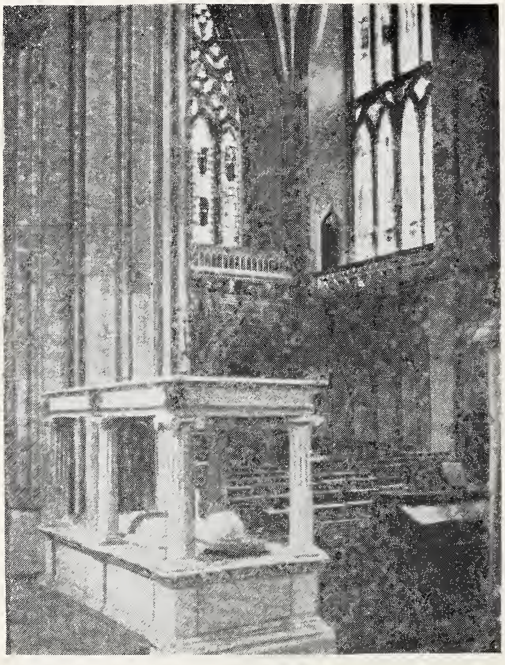
Photo] YEOVIL, THE GEORGE INN. [Miss Rodman.



Photo] [Miss Rodman.
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, YEOVIL (SOUTH PORCH).



Photo] CHAVENAGE MANOR AND CHURCH. [*Dr. Fosbery.*



Photo] [*Mrs. F. B. Girdlestone.*

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL. TOMB OF PAUL BUSH,
FIRST BISHOP OF BRISTOL.

bought it just at the end of the reign of Henry VIII. Leland said that in his time there was " a praty manor place of stone harde at the west end of the churche. This be likehod was partely builded by Abbate Selwolde of Glasseinberie. Syns it served the fermer of the lordeship." It was not necessarily a large house and may have been added to, but he (Sir John) thought it was entirely remodelled or rebuilt in the middle of the 16th Century. There were Jacobean additions. The visitors had the advantage of seeing the interior, which is furnished with great taste.

The Church of St. Andrew was also explained to the members by Sir John Horner. (See former visit of the Bath Branch to Mells, etc., in Vol. of Proceedings for 1907, page 138.

Sir John Horner was warmly thanked by Lieut.-Col. H. P. P. Leigh. Luncheon was served at the Talbot Hotel, Mells.

The Rev. Dom. Ethelbert Horne, O.S.B., awaited the visitors at Nunney, where they saw the Castle by permission of the owner, Mr. R. Baily-Neal. Father Horne, in an interesting paper, said that of all the Somerset castles, of which there were originally 12, Nunney was probably the youngest, while Dunster and Taunton went back to Saxon times. Sir John Delamere, lord of the manor, in the reign of Edward I., obtained a license to embattle his house at Nunney. He may have wished to build a castle or to fortify his existing house. The license was merely a device of the Government to obtain money, but it served a purpose in giving them the date. The castle was an oblong nearly two squares, being 61ft. long by 25ft. wide, and was not laid out with any respect to the points of the compass. The walls were 8½ft. thick, and originally the building was divided into four stories, as can be seen. The four corner towers had walls 7ft. in thickness. The chief entrance was on the north side and was very small, only 4ft. in width and 7ft. in height. In the northern tower was a circular wooden staircase for the use of the garrison and the servants. Underneath the last tower was a well from which the water could be drawn up to the second floor. There was a " speaking tube " in the wall communicating with what was the kitchen. In the south tower was the chapel, the window sill of which made the altar table, facing east. By the side of the altar the piscina was still in place. The castle was surrounded by a moat, outside of which was a wall 12ft. high except on the stream side—of that wall nothing remained. In the Civil War the owner, George Præter, was a Royalist. Fairfax and Cromwell, fresh from their victories over the King's troops further south and making for Bristol, sent two regiments and three cannons to take Nunney. The guns on the higher ground were able to batter the breach visible in the wall, and Col. Præter asked for a parley, and the castle was given up on terms. Subsequently the National Assembly ordered it to be "slighted" and made useless, and that was done.

The castle is now rapidly falling into serious ruin. Father Horne observed that though it would cost a great deal to restore completely, something should be done to prevent its falling into complete ruin. It was more interesting because it was more complete than Farleigh Castle, which had recently been preserved, and he suggested that the society should make representations to the proper authorities with a view to its preservation, at any rate.

By permission of the tenant, Mr. Gilbert Ashman, who was thanked by the Rev. F. C. Bayliss, the society visited the Manor Farm to inspect some panelling, a curious hidden recess and a fine carved staircase. They also visited the church of All Saints, by permission of the Rector, the Rev. J. W. Clough. The church has a picturesque Perpendicular tower on the west side of which is a panel with a key and a knot, believed to be the Delamere arms. The interior, which has been much altered, contains a Norman font, some interesting 13th and 14th Century effigies of the Delameres, and a fine 15th Century screen.

At Holcombe, Father Horne again described the old church of St. Andrew. (See former visit of the Bath Branch to Holcombe, etc., for description of Church in Vol. of Proceedings for 1914, pages 7 and 8.

Finally, the members drove to Stratton-on-the-Fosse, to see the war memorial. At tea, admirably served in the village hall, Mr. H. M. Ingham expressed the grateful thanks of the society to Mr. Gerald Grey for a specially interesting excursion and Mr. Duncan thanked Father Horne.

Bath was reached at 6.30.

KNOOK, CODFORD ST. PETER, LITTLE LANGFORD AND STONEHENGE.

Thursday, June 21st, 1923.

Leaving Queen Square at 9.45 a.m. in three motor coaches Knook was reached at 11.45. At the church of St. Margaret, the Rev. A. D. Clutsom told the members that it was very small, but full of interest. The church was originally entirely Norman (though there may bave been some earlier work in it), which is practically proved by the blocked up south doorway and the window in the north aisle of the chancel. The church was restored by Mr. Butterfield in 1876. The doorway outside had a Norman tympanum, which was particularly interesting, partly beacuse it had none of the usual religious subjects, but was carved in the Eastern style, mostly Byzantine.

It seems to date between 1120 and 1150 and represents a lion or leopard and a dragon feeding on a tree. The lower west window was Norman, but very much defaced. The three small east windows were placed by Mr. Butterfield because he found that arrangement in churches of that period. The Vicar drew attention to the beautiful Norman capitals at the chancel arch, though the arch itself is new. He showed an Elizabethan chalice and a paten undoubtedly mediæval.

The Vicar was warmly thanked by Mr. Gerald Grey.

The Rev. R. Denny, Rector of St. Peter, Codford, said the church as they saw it was almost entirely rebuilt in 1864, when a great many old things were destroyed. For instance, there was an old 15th Century arch where they now saw a new one, and there was no aisle, in fact, he thought the church was very much altered indeed. The arch under the tower was the only part not restored. The only two things of any antiquity in the church were an old stone, in the chancel, which was found built inside the old chancel arch and possibly was a relic of the earlier Saxon church. It is a tall block standing four feet high, tapering from the back, which is about a foot wide, to the top, which is about six inches. Carved in front is a figure of a man reaching up with his right hand to seize a fruit from a tree, while in his left he holds what appears to be a stone-headed mallet. He is apparently a Saxon, and the manner and style of the whole are just that. According to Mr. Ponting we have here the tapered shaft of a Saxon cross of the 10th Century. The font, which some said was Saxon, but he believed was very early Norman. It had been broken and repaired. The screen was erected in 1911, and the rood was rare. It had the symbols of the Passion instead of the figures. There was one other, in Brittany, where the architect probably got the idea from.

The Rev. J. Byrchmore expressed the thanks of the members to the Rector.

After Luncheon, at the Angel Hotel, Heytesbury, Little Langford was next visited. A little old-world village, a tiny but interesting Church. The members were welcomed by the Rector (the Rev. C. S. Earle). The Rector said the Church was dedicated to St. Nicholas of Mirva, and was built about 1120. He drew attention to the south door which was a beautiful piece of Norman work. It was late Norman, probably about 1120. It was in a wonderful state of preservation. In the tympanum is depicted a hunting scene on the lintel, a tree with a bird at the top of each of the three branches symbolical of the Blessed Trinity, and a figure of an eccelesiastic vested, holding a pastoral staff and in attitude of benediction. As this Church is also dedicated to St. Nicholas, it is fair to assume that this Saint is here designated. In the interior they had examples of all four styles of Gothic architecture. The south doorway and font were Norman, the west end Early English; the chantry chapel Decorated Work; the chancel window was Perpendicular, being rebuilt, for the first time in 1430, and the north side was debased and probably Elizabethan. The Norman font was big enough for the full immersion of infants.

Mr. Earle was thanked by Mr. E. Segar for his interesting description.

The chief feature of the day was a visit to Stonehenge where the members were met by Mr. B. Howard Cunnington, F.S.A., (Scot.), F.G.S.

Mr. Cunnington said that Excavations had been carried out by the Society of Antiquaries under Col. Hawley, and the excavations had shown them that the building in which they stood was not the first Stonehenge. Running round on the outside was a bank and ditch outside the level, inside of which were a number of little white patches. Aubrey drew attention to these in the 17th Century, drew a plan of them and marked them as little depressions, but no notice was taken of them. Authority after authority argued about the stones, but overlooked the hollows. Two years ago Col. Hawley excavated one of these depressions, and then found that they were equi-distant all the way round just inside the bank, and they corresponded with the two stones of the bank which were what were called foreign stones or blue stones, and were similar to the inner circle of stones, and it was presumed with very good reason that these blue stones all stood in these holes, which were called Aubrey holes because he marked them, and were removed at a later period and put inside the Stonehenge temple, as they knew it to-day. Evidence of this was the fact that within nine inches of the top of the ditch, which was filled nearly level, were found chippings of the stones of Stonehenge. It was impossible for the chippings to be at the top of the ditch, unless the silting had taken place first. It was proved that there were remains of Bronze Age burials—not cremations, but a small spadeful of human bones—in 25 out of the 30 holes that had been opened, and this pagan interment had been found almost at the bottom. These burnt bones must have been put in when the stones were removed. Stonehenge No. 2. was probably Stonehenge as we saw it to-day because in the last few days Col. Hawley had found 33ft. away from the centre another hole where stones had been put up, and these square holes were not holes made by the Bronze Age men, but of the Halstatt or Roman-British period. Mr. Cunnington emphasized the importance of the discovery of the square holes and the fact that the man of the Bronze Age always made his holes round, and observed that he was inclining to the opinion that the present Stonehenge was Romano, British or post-Roman.

Mr. Gerald Grey expressed the great indebtedness of the members to Mr. Cunnington.

After tea, at the Angel Hotel, Heytesbury, a return home was made, Bath being reached at 7.15.

YEOVIL, BRYMPTON D'EVERAY AND CREWKERNE.

July 17th, 1923.

Some 50 members started from Queen Square at 9.15 a.m., the weather being fine. After a delightful drive of two hours, Yeovil was reached in good time.

At the Parish Church of St. John Baptist, Mr. John Goodchild, who is Editor of the " Western Gazette " and a Warden of the Church, took charge of the party as guide.

The members having gathered inside the Church, Mr. Goodchild welcomed them to what he said was one of Somerset's most beautiful Churches, " The Lantern of the West," which was chiefly remarkable in that it was designed, built and completed in one style—early Perpendicular. The earliest endowment was by the Empress Maud (1126-1189) and by this the Rector by right of his church, became Lord of the town with a market on Fridays. In 1205 King John gave a charter to the town which altered the ancient Sunday market to Friday.

In 1349 Bishop Ralph was besieged in the Church by the townspeople for the space of a day and there was bloodshed for which the Church was presently enterdicted and the rioters ex-communicated.

The Church begun about 1380 and finished ten years later, is just as the builders left it, but a shell from which most of the magnificence has been extracted. It is 150 feet long by

50 feet wide and 80 feet across the transepts. A great screen enclosed the choir and transepts on which stood an organ which was in existence in 1549 and was taken down in 1644. The screen which shut off the choir from the nave and made chapels of the choir aisles remained till 1753 when the churchwardens took it down and erected "two respectable galleries." There were four chantries existing at the date of the Suppression and this fact may have had a bearing on the plan of the church, for as they would observe the transepts were more chapels than true transepts.

Mr. Goodchild said that a fortunate discovery by him of some Elizabethan churchwarden's accounts had enabled them to place exactly the sites of the Chantry Altars. Holy Trinity in the south choir aisle was the most important, being for three priests (one an arch priest) and the dedication was represented in the glass of the window above the altar. The altar of the Blessed Virgin was in the South Transept, that of the Name of Jesus in the north choir aisle, and the Holy Cross in the North Transept.

Pointing out that most of the mediæval fittings of the Church had gone, he pointed out that one which remained was their greatest treasure—the great brass lectern which dated from 1450-60. It had an inscription which had remained a puzzle on account of its queer contractions. A free translation was :

> "Come make your petition from this place with humble prayers
> Now I pray,
> And may Brother Martin fforrester awake in the blessed life."

Above this inscription is a figure of a monk from which the head has been erased. The churchwardens accounts for 1565 contain the entry :

" Item, payd for the puttynge out of the two pictors uppon the brasse Dexte that the lessuns be reade on—iid." (2d.). Another curious entry was : " 1564. Item payd for birde lime to take ye birde, which did haunte ye church—iid " (2d.). In the church are preserved a Bible of the Restoration period and paraphrase of Erasmus (1561). The paraphrase cost 16s. and a chain and lock for it cost 1s. The chain was still on the book. In the chancel the guide pointed out two interesting corbels-heads that once supported the rod which held the Lintern veil. There were no mediæval fittings in the chancel with the exception of the aumbry. Former churchwardens sealed up the open timber roof with lath and plaster, painted the pillars yellow, and fitted the church with pews ; they repanelled the sanctuary and covered up two wonderful Gothic niches and a piscina. The crypt, was once thought to be anterior to the church, but the present opinion was that it was but little earlier than the sanctuary. It was quite of decorated character. It was thought that this was finished and the whole plan of the church prepared, when there came the great change to Perpendicular, which originated at Gloucester. The whole of the designs were swept away, and the great church was built in the Perpendicular style. The font was original, but had been restored. A brass had been removed from the floor of the choir, and was now on the eastern wall of the south choir, to the memory of Giles Penne (or Penney) and his wife. The George Inn, Yeovil, a 15th Century half-timbered house, was thought to be the residence of Penney.

From the church the members went down the street to view the Castle Hotel, a house dating from the 12th Century, once the residence of the priest of the chantry of the B.V.M. It is an old house of many periods. Opposite to it is the George Inn, once the property of almshouses, now owned by a brewery. It is of the 14th Century, the same date as Norton St. Philip.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Goodchild was voiced by the hon. secretary, Mr. Gerald Grey.

After luncheon at Maynard's Restaurant another drive brought the members to Brympton D'everay, where they were received by Capt. and Mrs. E. A. B. Clive (sister of the present owner, Mr. R. Ponsonby-Fane). Mrs. Clive conducted one half of the party and the captain the other half. They inspected the collections made by the late Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane, G.C.B. From the Conquest, Brympton has been held by four families only—D'everay, Stourton, Sydenham and Fane; each family holding it about 200 years. It is asserted that the south front was designed by Inigo Jones. Adjoining the house is a small house, part of the original dating back to King John. The hall on the first floor is a beautiful example. It would be impossible to describe the treasures in the present house—pictures by Holbein, Vandyck, Rubens, Lely, Hoppner, Sir Thomas Lawrence and others; a collection of brass pole-heads (mainly Somerset) such as were carried on feast and club days. The room prepared for Queen Anne, who died without reaching the House. There was much tapestry of the Elizabethan period. The members viewed the kitchen with its ancient spit, and its lovely old pewter.

The church, very pretty and quaint, dates from the 14th Century. It contained a fine example of a hagioscope; a piscina; a little ancient glass, very beautiful; and one of the most interesting stone screens in the country.

Mr. G. W. Duncan expressed the thanks of the visitors to Capt. and Mrs. Clive.

At Crewkerne, where the fine old church of St. Bartholomew was shown by the Rev. T. H. Labey, curate, who said it was supposed that the niche now occupied by St. Bartholomew once contained the B.V.M. That church was founded in the days of the Saxons, and was handed by William the Conqueror to St. Stephen's, Caen, Normandy. It was an abbey served by three rectors and two or three chantry priests. Over the southern porch was a parvis, 11ft. by 11ft. and 7ft. high, used as a residence by the chantry priest. There were 76 gargoyles on the church, all with musical instruments. The west front was supposed to be as fine as Bath Abbey. The church was thought to be one of the finest specimens of Perpendicular, the nave absolutely square, 56ft. each way; total length of church 122ft. The house by the church, known as the Abbey, is supposed to have been once joined to the church. It was the residence of the chantry priests. The beautiful old roof of the church, once hidden under plaster, was pointed out; also the door which once led into the rood loft. The old chalices and paten were shown, the "cupps" dating from 1607 and 1609.

A hasty visit was made to the adjoining Grammar School, which Mr. Humphrey Blake explained. It was founded in 1499, continued as a school to 1881, now bought back by Miss Sparkes, a benefactress of the church, and presented as a church room. An inscription attests: "Thomas Masterman Hardy, Bart, and G.C.B., the friend of Nelson, and Captain of the Victory, was educated here 1778-81."

Thanks, proposed by Mr. Lionel Vibert, to the Rev. Labey and Mr. Blake for their kind assistance, were tendered.

During tea at Yeovil Mr. Fitzroy Jones briefly tendered the thanks of all to Mr. Gerald Grey for his admirable arrangements.

Bath was reached at 7.30.

TETBURY, BEVERSTON, CHAVENAGE AND MALMESBURY.

Monday, September 17th, 1923.

The members left Queen Square at 10 o'clock, in fine weather, and were conveyed in two motor coaches to Tetbury, where they were met at the church by Mr. Aubrey P. Kitcat, who described the building. The parish church of St. Mary

Magdalen has a very attractive exterior, with its tower and graceful spire. Mr. Kitcat explained that the present church was completely rebuilt, with the exception of the tower and spire, about 1766. The old church was large and handsome it had an aisle on the south side and two on the north ; a chancel with rood loft and two side aisles. This church, according to contemporary accounts, had fallen into such a state that rebuilding was a necessity in 1766. The tower and spire were supposed to date from about 1400, and were considered very good.

Subsequently the members inspected the ancient Town Hall, being shown old seals, deeds, and pictures, some old houses, and a supposed monk's cell.—Mr. Kitcat was thanked by Mr. Brydges-Barrett.

After luncheon, at the Talbot Hotel, the members proceeded to Chavenage House, by permission of Major Lonsley-Williams, who personally received the members and showed them round. The house was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by Edward Stephens, of Eastington, near Stonehouse, and added to in 1684. The eastern front is in the usual form of the letter E. The south, or garden front, is long, irregular, and highly picturesque, its length being added to by the private chapel built close to the house. The hall is a very fine apartment ; it has two lofty, mullioned windows, partly filled with fragments of choice old Flemish and other glass. The lofty stone mantelpiece is of Jacobean date, and the walls are oak-panelled. At the end of the hall is a minstrel's gallery, with a coved and panelled ceiling. The dining room, which is even finer, is panelled throughout with dark oak, relieved with gilding. There are many other interesting rooms. The families of the Stephens and Oliver Cromwell were connected by marriage, and Cromwell slept in a room hung with tapestries in a fine state of preservation, representing a woodland scene. Another room, also covered with tapestry, but much cut about, was occupied by Gen. Ireton. Another room has long been labelled as once occupied by Queen Anne. The house is full of beautiful old furniture, and the Flemish glass is very interesting.

The thanks of the members were conveyed to Major Lonsley-Williams by Mr. E. Segar.

The members next drove to Beverston to see the church and ruined castle, being met at the church by the Rector (the Rev. G. W. Dominey), and at the castle by Miss Garlick. It is a place of some antiquity, for a fortress existed there some 50 years before the Conquest. The name is thought to mean the town of Bever, Bever being a Norman noble who obtained a grant of land by favour of Queen Emma. The great Lord Berkeley made alterations to the castle, which had been rebuilt in 1225, and the estate was held by his descendants, in the younger line for 265 years. The castle was held for Charles I., and withstood more than one assault. Two fires destroyed much of the castle, but the walls of the old banqueting hall were filled in with floors and partitions to make a residence.

The castle, as left by Lord Berkeley, was a place of great strength, defended by four towers, one at each angle, and between each angle was a curtain wall with extensive galleries and many chambers behind it. It is now a picturesque ruin. The western face still remains, and the great tower, or " keep " which is of three stories. The lowest forms a guardroom, the second contains a gallery and stairs leading to rooms behind the western curtain, but mainly occupied by the garrison chapel, a beautiful structure with a fine, traceried window of three lights on the east. The stone vaulting is extremely fine, and has richly carved bosses. The double piscina are nearly perfect. Above this chapel is a large chamber, whence steps lead to the battlements, and northward is the tiny domestic chapel furnished with double squints on each wall, to allow a much large number to see and hear the service. The northern and eastern curtains and north-east angle tower have disappeared, and towards the east only the gate tower remains, and the small guard chambers on either side.

The present church in its older parts dates from about the year 1225, and belonged to the transitional Norman period. There was a church before, said Mr. Dominey, but they did not know when it was built, or on what side. The oldest portions are the pillars and arcade, the doorway, part of the tower, and the figure of our Lord carrying the Resurrection banner, rudely sculptured, on the outside of the south wall. The remainder of the church dates from 1360, when Lord Berkeley was rebuilding the castle. There was no record of anything being done in the church from then until it was restored, or, as some people said, spoiled, 90 years ago. Later rectors have done much to put matters right. An interesting passage from the Berkeley castle, along which the consecrated elements were brought to the occupants who worshipped in the chapel, and did not mix with the rest of the congregation. The beautiful old black screen of 14th Century style, which was probably originally five bays, instead of three, had been rescued from the Rectory garden, where it had been made into an arbour.

Mr. Dominey was thanked on behalf of the members by Mr. Gerald Grey.

Finally, the members went to Malmesbury, where they were received by the Vicar (the Rev. C. E. Paterson), and Mr. Harold Brakspear, F.S.A., once more was kind enough to address the branch. The beginning of the history of Malmesbury, he said, was the founding of a religious school there by Maldulf, which became well known ; Aldhelm succeeded him, and converted the school into a regular monastery. He became first Bishop of Sherborne, when the diocese of Winchester was divided, but he was buried at Malmesbury. He was a great builder of churches, and built the church at Malmesbury, his cathedral at Sherborne, and monastries at Frome and Bradford-on-Avon. He did not build a big church, but several, for in Anglo-Saxon times the sanctity of a place depended not upon the size, but the number of churches. From the time of Aldhelm the monastery prospered ; the only alteration after the Conquest was the substitution of a Norman Abbot for an English, and there was no immediate building activity. In 1112 a Chancellor of England, Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, seized the revenues of the monastery. According to some guide books, Roger was reputed to have built this church, but that was nonsense—he wished rather to reduce the importance of Malmesbury. It was after his death, in 1139, that they must look for the building. It was begun at the eastern end, and carried to the west. The east end was out in the middle of the tennis lawns ; he had traced the foundations carefully. The Norman church consisted of the great eastern arm, with an apse and side chapels. Then came the great crossing, of which the beautiful northern arch remained outside. The east wall of the present church was the western arch of the central tower. The nave formerly had three more bays, and the whole church was twice as long as the original nave. In the 14th Century the whole of the transepts and nave were vaulted in stone, and later the great central tower was raised. The church had two towers, but the western tower collapsed later, and destroyed the three end bays, and the vaulting of the bay now was lath and plaster, and they were hoping to restore it, for it had now become unsafe. Upon the suppression of the monastries, the abbey church was to be destroyed, and the handsome Abbot's house was to remain. William Stumpe, a rich clothier in Gloucester, purchased the site of the Abbey, and as the parish church of St. Paul, whose tower and spire still remained, was in a very dilapidated condition, presented the remains of the nave of the Abbey church to be used as a parish church. The rest was despoiled.

Mr. Gerald Grey conveyed the thanks of the members to Mr. Brakspear.

Tea was partaken of at the King's Arms Hotel. Bath being reached by 7 o'clock.

KEYNSHAM ROMAN VILLA AND BRISTOL.

Monday, October 15th, 1923.

The last excursion of the season was held in delightful weather. The members started from Queen Square in three motor coaches. At the Roman Villa, Keynsham, Mr. Gerald Grey read some notes on this years excavations. A trial trench was dug in this field last June, and a section of the corridor came to light. At the angle of the two corridors was a group of dwelling rooms. A large room in the form of a hexagon, 26ft. across, stood at the top of the principal corridor, having a wonderfully good tesselated floor, the geometrical designs being particularly fine. At the west end of the hexagon there was another room about 12ft. square. On the right hand side of the hexagonal room was a long room—beautifully tesselated—with an apse. Corresponding to this on the left hand side are the remains of the hypocaust, or heating chamber. About 30 coins of bronze have been found, as well as two or three bronze bangles and rings of bronze. One of the most interesting finds is a bronze fish-hook in absolutely perfect condition. Other discoveries are spindle whorls and a mark of a human foot on a piece of clay, made while it was soft.

In Bristol, the first church seen was the Temple Church (or Holy Cross), familiar to all travellers to Bristol for its leaning tower—it is 4ft. out of the perpendicular, having sunk owing to being built on the meadow clay. Here the members were received by the Rev. Canon Welchman. The church was founded in 1145 by the Order of the Knights Templar. Temple Church was also identified with one of the earliest trade guilds, the side chapel being the spiritual home of the Weavers' Guild. Edward Colston, the great Bristol philanthropist, was baptised in the church, and John Wesley, who was a friend of the vicar, preached there—it was the last pulpit he preached in before he was inhibited—and he performed a marriage ceremony and they had his signature in the register.

Canon Welchman drew attention to the grille, which was recognised as the finest example in the country of 1700 work, and also the magnificent Florentine brass candelabra with figures and symbolic emblems, presented by the Weavers' Guild in 1350, and used ever since. The church suffered at the hands of the Cromwellian soldiery, who used the church for stables and destroyed all the stained glass. Canon Welchman also showed some unique church plate, an early Elizabethan alms dish, the only existing dessert spoon made by the silver foundry at St. Peter's Hospital, in the reign of Edward VI. and a 1701 candlestick of unique design.

The thanks of the members were voiced by the Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn.

After lunch, the Lord Mayor's Chapel in College Green was visited, the sexton, Mr. Ackery, acting as guide. He remarked that it had three names, the chapel of the Gaunts, by whom the hospital was founded; the chapel of St. Mark, to whom it was dedicated, and Lord Mayor's Chapel, because the Lord Mayor and Corporation were responsible for its upkeep, and it was the only purely civic church in England. It dated from 1210, when Sir Maurice Berkeley de Gaunt, grandson of Robert Fitzharding, founded Gaunts's Hospital, the work being enlarged by his successor, Robert de Gournay, and his younger brother Sir Henry de Gaunt. The oldest part is the nave, which is the original, Early English; the south aisle windows are Early Decorated, and the east end of the chancel and the south aisle chapel, about 1500, are fine examples of the Perpendicular. The site of the hospital buildings on the north side were devoted by the Corporation to a school, but in the restoration of 1889, when the paint was cleaned off the stones, the transept was rebuilt on the old lines and the church has now its original shape. The carved work in the sanctuary is one of the finest examples of 15th Century work. The 18 small niches contained statuettes of silver and copper gilt. In the beautiful Late Perpendicular Poyntz chapel, the fan vaulting is notable, rising straight out of the canopies. The Dean of Bristol (Dr. Borroughs), owing to his accident was unable to welcome the party, but had very cordially invited them to the cathedral, and on his behalf the members were greeted by the Sub-Dean (Canon Alford)—and the Precentor (the Rev. J. M. D. Stancomb).

The visitors were divided into two parties, and under the guidance of the Sub-Dean and the Precentor inspected the cathedral in detail. There was much of interest to be seen, the magnificent great east window with the original glass, so praised by Augustus Pugin as " truly beautiful ;" the sacristy, part of the old monastic building, a very fine example, with its valted roof and recess with flue used for making "wafer bread"; the twin Berkeley chapels, now the choir vestry, but to be restored as the children's chapels; the worn steps leading from the monks' dortor, and soon to be used again; the 16th Century oak choir stalls with carved misericordes; the ruins of the Bishop's palace, wrecked by the Bristol rioters, who were only kept out of the cathedral itself by the pluck of the sub-sacrist, who fought with his back to the door. Finally, the great treasure of the cathedral, the Chapter House, which is the most perfect Norman room in the Kingdom, though one of its three bays is lost, destroyed by the rioters. Its vestibule, with rounded and pointed arches combined, was also shown—this summer the floor has been lowered to the original level and the bases uncovered, the inside series of which are rounded instead of being square like the outside (it is suggested so that there should be no nasty edges for the monks passing by). Much interest was shown in the restoration work in progress in this part on the old monkish foundations, and a perfect Norman arch erected out of fragments of Norman stones found around the cathedral.

Canon Alford was thanked by the Rev. F. Varley, and Mr. Stancomb by Lieut.-Col. Leigh.

Afterwards the members attended Evensong.

Opportunity was taken at the tea table to thank the hon. excursion secretary (Mr. Gerald Grey) for all the trouble he had taken, Lieut.-Col. Leigh expressing the warm appreciation of the Branch.

Bath was reached in good time at 6 o'clock.

LECTURES.

FORTIFIED DWELLING HOUSES IN ENGLAND IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

Mr. C. H. Bothamley, M.Sc.

This, the first lecture of the year, was given at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Saturday, March 10th, at 3 o'clock. Mr. Bothamley has previously favoured us with two lectures, this one was on a different subject, but not less interesting, especially so as the matter was quite new to the goodly company in attendance. As usual with his lectures it was well illustrated by lantern slides. The Rev. Prebendary Boyd, who presided, said that he knew nothing about the subject, but he felt that it was an immensely attractive one. One had heard about fortified castles, but what did they want to fortify a dwelling house against? In the beginning and possibly afterwards it was no doubt necessary to fortify against wild men, against attacks by stones and the shooting of cross bows and long bows.

Mr. Bothamley said that, as had been remarked, when one talked about a fortified place, it brought to the mind as a rule one of those great fortified castles put up to secure the feudal lord's hold upon his demesnes, or as part of the general plan of the defence of the country. But, as a matter of fact, quite early and for his purpose, at any rate, from the 11th Century onwards, lesser gentry found it necessary to have a dwelling of such a kind as to be capable of resisting against, not a great attack, such as would be laid to a castle, but against a band of marauders or any unfriendly neighbours, and there were a great many unfriendly neighbours then—as now, but not in the same form; or a band of pirates or invaders. So, up and down the country, especially within reach of the East or South Coast, along the Welsh border, and, in particular, on the Northern border against Scotland, there were still quite a number of houses remaining not big enough to be dignified by the name of a castle, but large and relatively important dwelling houses, arranged to hold out for a week or a fortnight against a sudden attack.

By means of the lantern slides, the lecturer then showed views of a house in Lincolnshire, Norman—belonging to the 12th Century, an oblong type of house which was entered not from the ground floor, but from the first floor, as was the case to-day under similar circumstances in the Near East. The entrance was reached by a flight of stairs, sometimes built a little way from the main building, and a movable bridge giving the only access. The lower part of the building could be entered only from the upper, by means of a stair, or sometimes only a ladder. It had generally a stone vault and the storehouse of the place, and sometimes may also have provided accommodation for the servants. A house of that kind, surrounded by a moat, and with the access made difficult, might hold out for a time until relief came.

A great many of the houses of the 12th Century, of stone as distinct from less substantial materials, had the name of Jews' houses, of which one of the most famous was the Jew's House on the Steep Hill, at Lincoln. Nor far away was one known to have belonged to Aaron the Jew. The Jews, rich people, required strong houses, not easily burnt. Such were found at Lincoln, Southampton, and Bury St. Edmund's.

When they came to the 13th Century, they found a good many examples left, and some in surprisingly perfect condition. The lecturer showed views of the castle of Stokesay, Salop, which originally belonged to the Say family, but passed into the family of Ludlow. Here much of the 13th Century work remains, notably the great hall, and the tower on the south which, like the keep of a Norman castle, was the last refuge in time of real danger. Little Wenham Hall, in Suffolk, was also described as a specially beautiful 13th Century house with later alterations, but still retaining a perfect little chapel at the end of the hall. Then he passed on to Aydon Hall in Northumberland, which has been inhabited ever since it was built. He showed the battlements and embrasures for defence against the northern marauders. Next followed a series of views of the north country Peels, or strong towers from both sides of the Border, one on the northern side being the famous Hunting Tower, and another, Langley Castle. Markenfield Hall, with its encircling moat and great enclosure, capable of holding herds of cattle and even the villagers in time of need was described and fully illustrated. Then he passed on to speak of Nnnney Castle, Somerset, and of Compton Castle, Devonshire, the resort of Frobisher, Drake, Howard of Effingham, Grenville, and others, and possessing a method of defence unique in this country. Then he came on to the 15th Century, when the idea of domestic comfort was becoming more and more the dominant idea, and the need for defence had disappeared, except on the Scottish border, where Peel towers were built until the 16th Century. As the beginning of the 15th Century was the end of the Middle Ages, it was also the end of his story.

The Chairman briefly expressed the thanks of the audience to the lecturer for his realistic lecture.

PLATE I.

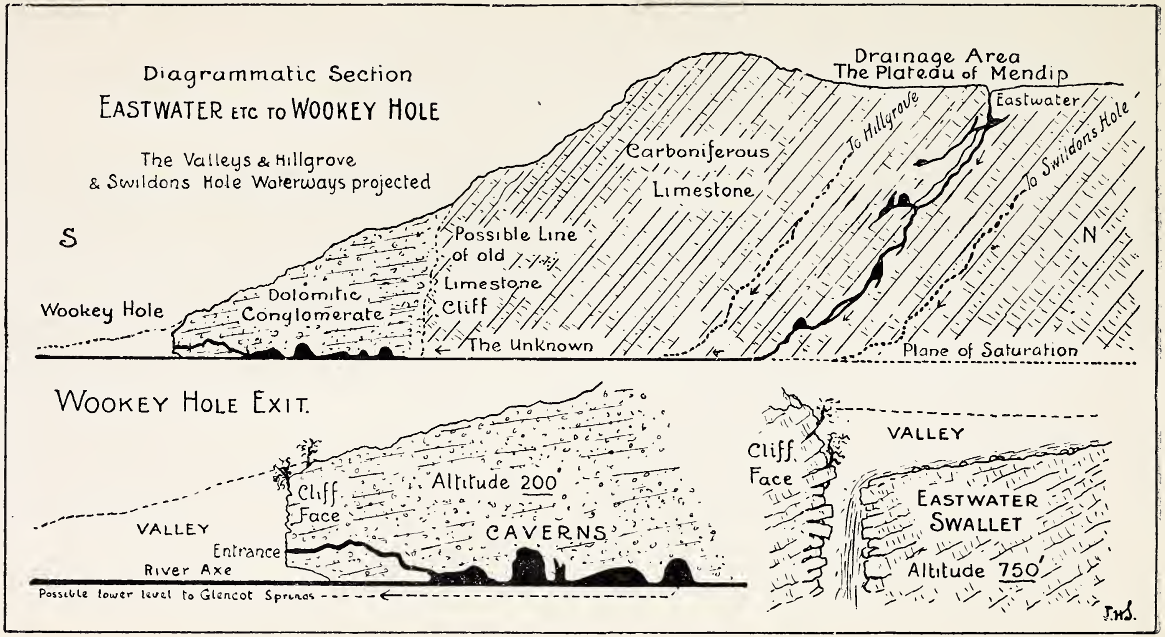
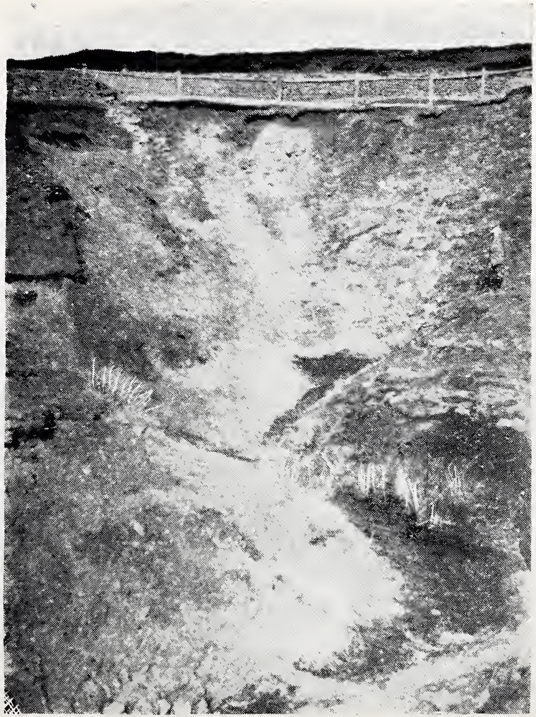
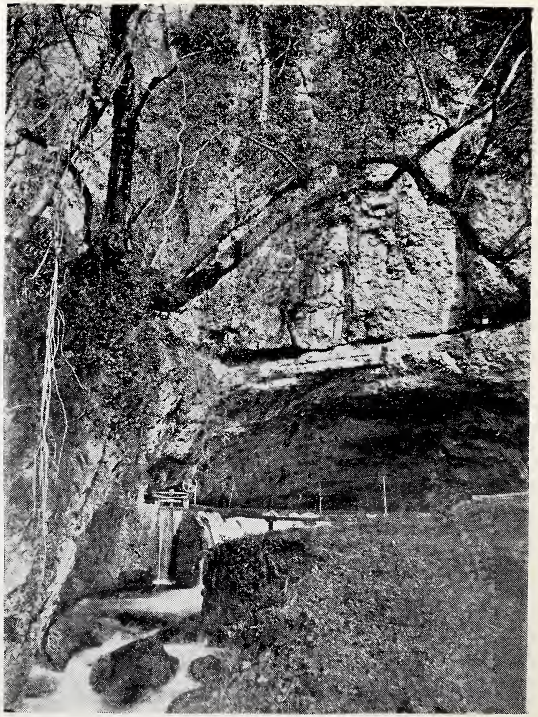

Diagrammatic Section
EASTWATER ETC TO WOOKEY HOLE
The Valleys & Hillgrove
& Swildons Hole Waterways projected
S
N
Drainage Area
The Plateau of Mendip
Eastwater
To Hillgrove
To Swildons Hole
Carboniferous
Limestone
Possible Line
of old
Limestone
Cliff
Wookey Hole
Dolomitic
Conglomerate
The Unknown
Plane of Saturation
WOOKEY HOLE EXIT.
VALLEY
Cliff
Face
Altitude 200
CAVERNS
Entrance
River Axe
Possible lower level to Glencot Springs
VALLEY
Cliff
Face
EASTWATER
SWALLET
Altitude 750'
J.H.S.

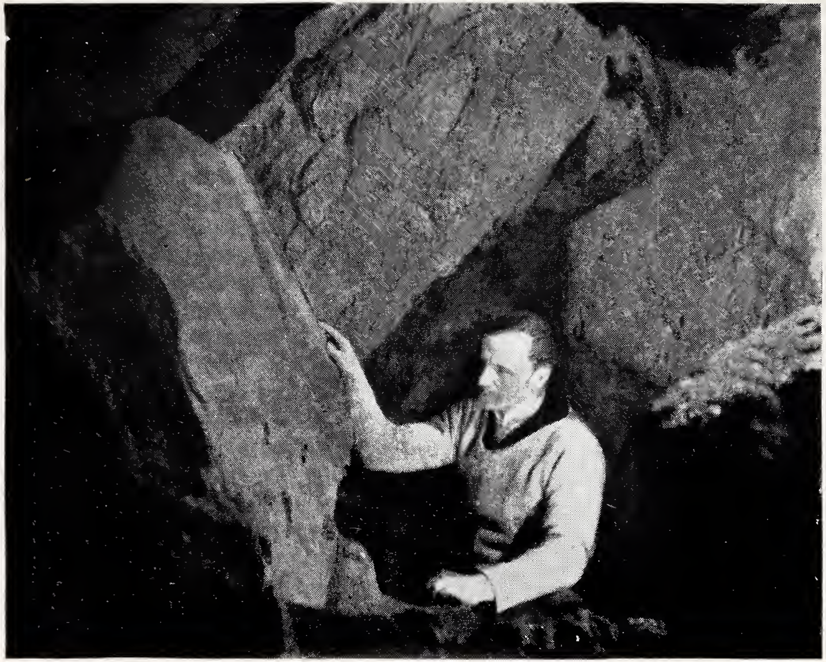
PLATE II.



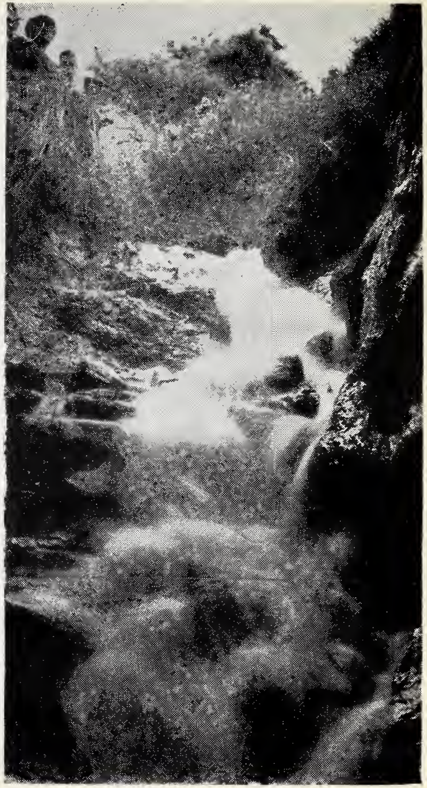
(*a*) The Inlet: ("Swallet," valley and cliff). Priddy Mines.



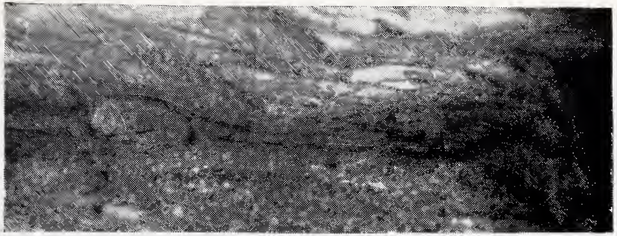
(*b*) The Outlet: Source of the river Axe, at Wookey Hole.



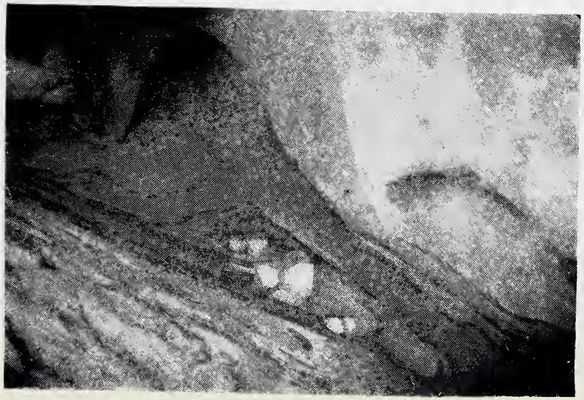
(*a*) In the Great Eastwater Swallet: H. E. Balch in the Boulders.



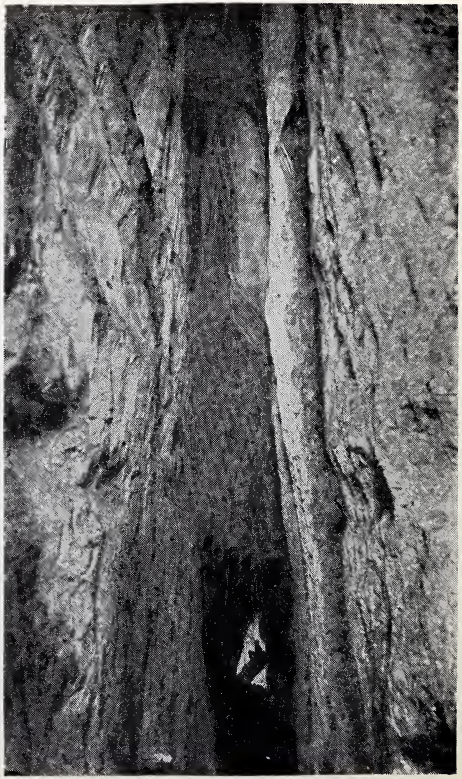
(*b*) Priddy Mines: The Plantation Swallet, demonstrating Erosion.



(*a*) Wookey Hole : " Purgatory," a horizontal bedding cave.

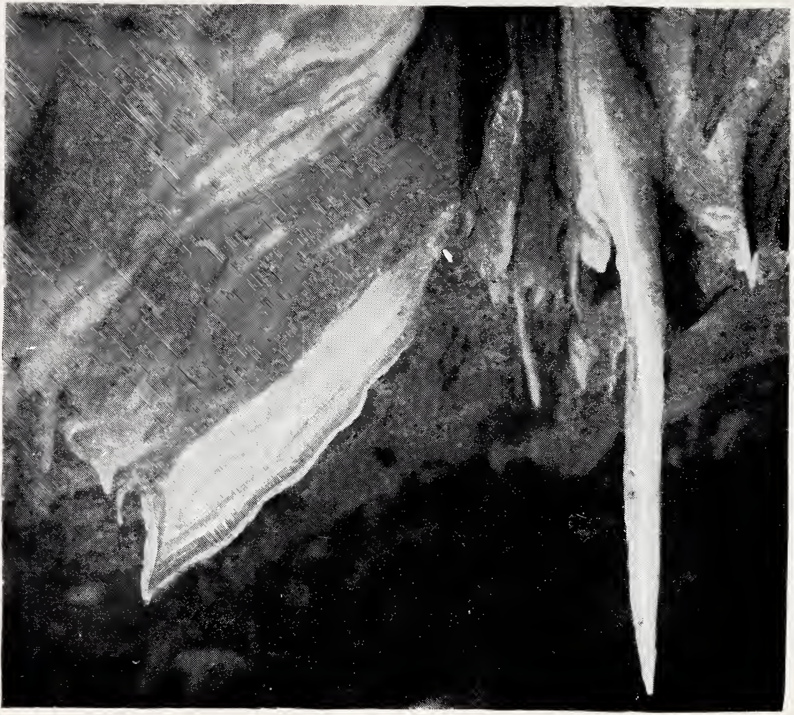


(*b*) Eastwater : The canyon, a tilted bedding cave.

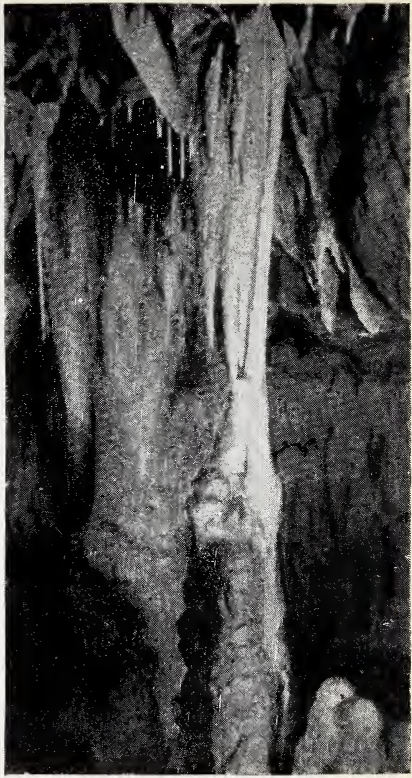


(*c*) Cheddar : " Long Hole," a rift chamber.

PLATE V

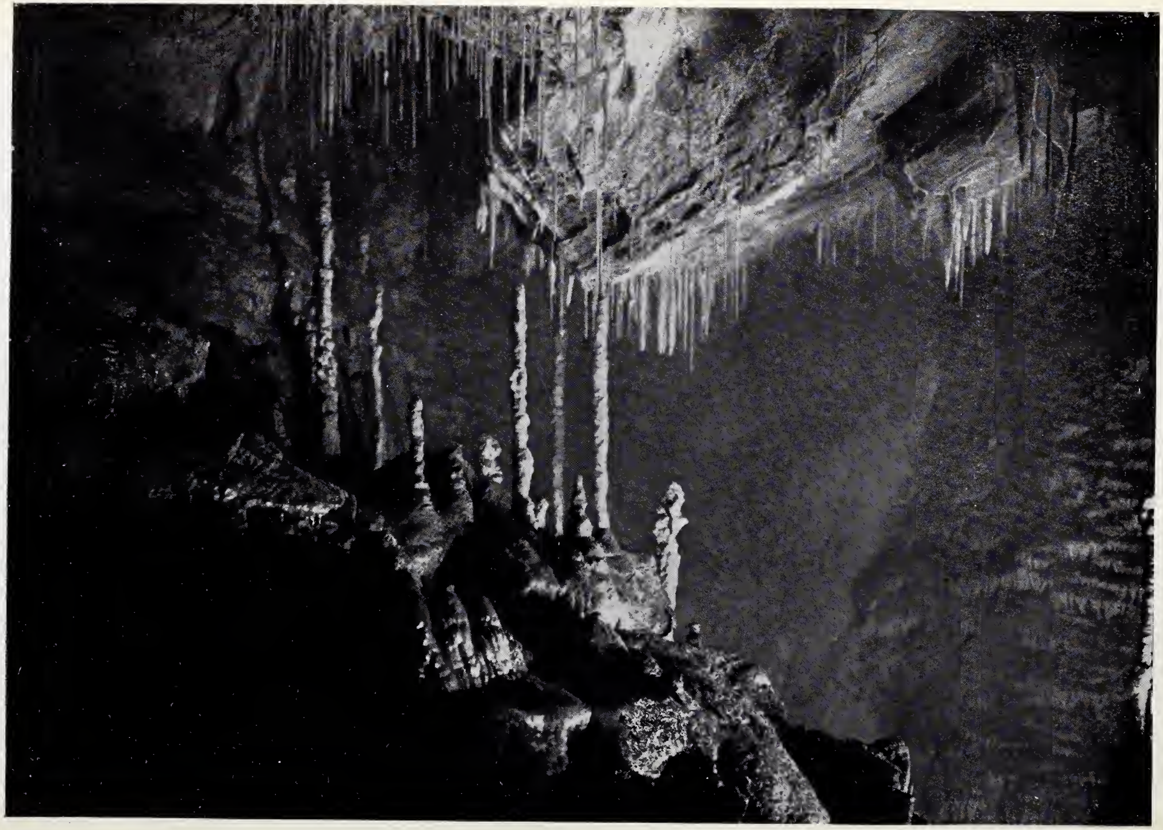


(*a*) Cheddar: Gough's Cave. Stalactite formations, a specimen curtain and pendant.



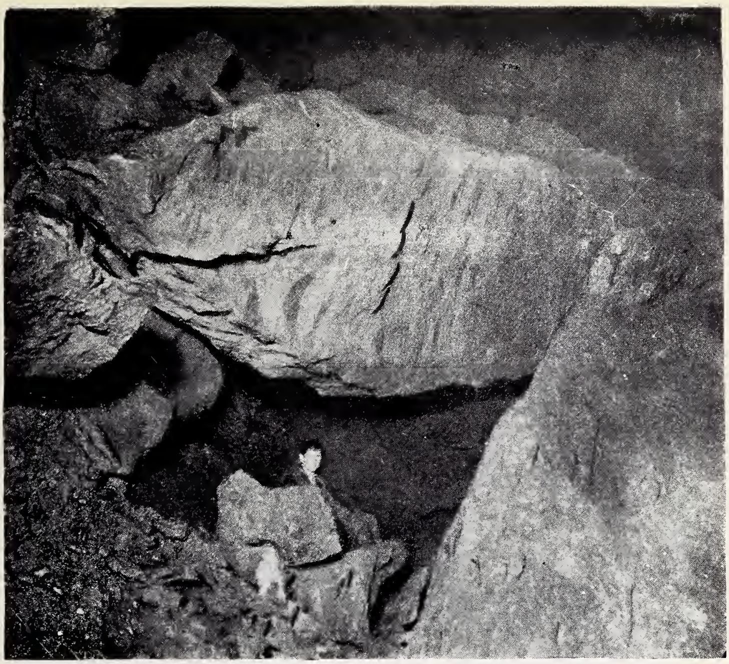
(*b*) Wookey Hole: West Series. The Stalactite and Stalagmite join to form a pillar.

PLATE VI.

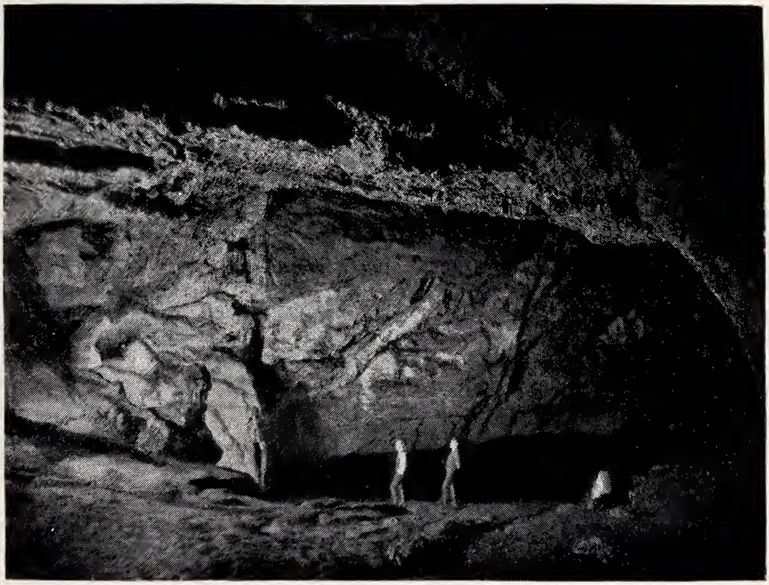


The Lower Grotto, Swildon's Hole: first entered by E. K. Trotman, November 12th, 1921.

PLATE VII.



(*a*) BURRINGTON: Reed's Cavern, collapse in the Boulder Chamber.



(*b*) WOOKEY HOLE: The first great chamber and underground river Axe.

THE LIMESTONE CAVES, UNDERGROUND RIVERS AND GORGES OF MENDIP.

Mr. J. Harry Savory.

This most interesting lecture, illustrated by many excellent slides, was given at the Literary and Scientific Institution on Saturday, November 24th at 3 o'clock. Mr. Savory has not only favoured us with notes here reproduced but loaned us the photos and blocks to illustrate them which will greatly add to their interest and will certainly be appreciated by every Member.

The Rev. J. Byrchmore was in the chair.

The following notes treat on Cave Exploration solely as a Nature Study, at the same time giving some indication of its sporting possibilities. It will readily be understood that this is entirely apart from the Archæological research being carried on in many of the Mendip Bone Caves.

The chief of the happy hunting grounds for the Cave Hunter on Mendip is that part of the great ridge running from the Bristol-Wells road north-westwards to Cheddar and Burrington. When roaming over these uplands, two things must impress the most casual observer—firstly, that there are no rushing streams running down the Gorges of Cheddar, Burrington, Ebbor, and a score of smaller valleys as would be the case anywhere on Quantock or Exmoor where to negotiate such streams and precipitous valleys, one is often taken far off one's course: secondly, that, roughly speaking, the whole of this portion of the Mendip plateau is one vast shallow basin bounded on the north and south by almost continuous buttresses of higher ground.

Mendip in common with any other high ground, attracts its full share of rain-fall, helped considerably by the close proximity of the Bristol Channel, and, in addition, where the core of the Old Red Sandstone makes its appearance through the overlying Limestone at all the highest points, copious springs pour forth their waters.

The hollowed crown of Mendip is therefore constantly receiving a great volume of water, which as quickly disappears and yet nowhere do surface streams run to the low-lying moors on north and south. How then is the plateau drained? Herein lies the whole secret of Mendip's caves. To put it in a nut-shell. the surface water having absorbed carbonic acid gas from the vegetation in which it is lying, has the power to dissolve Limestone and it is to this fact alone that the formation of limestone caves is due.

It will quickly be discovered that, at varying distances from their sources, usually soon after they have run on to the Limestone, the spring streams disappear underground. By means of this chemical action, as might be expected, they attack on the lines of least resistance, namely the bedding joints, eating downwards through the steeply tilted strata. It is not that the depression prevents their escape to the low land, for the depression is itself the result of their disappearance rather than the cause.

In this way, therefore, the surface of the Mendip plateau is constantly being denuded and thousands of streams are for ever carrying underground the surface soil and stony debris which they are washing along in their courses. It is due to this that we have the great general depression on the plateau, more clearly emphasised at the points where the streams run underground, called locally "swallets," where butt-ended valleys are formed varying in size according to the strength of the stream. Many streams are so small that they have hardly formed a swallet valley at all, but it is a fact that swallets of different sizes are so numerous on the top of Mendip that one cannot anywhere walk across a couple of fields without finding clear indications of surface drainage of this kind: the stream of a great swallet roaring underground in time of flood or the merest trickle gurgling mysteriously through the pebbles just beneath the turf.

The streams, following the dip of the strata, travel steeply downwards until the "plane of saturation" is reached, roughly the level of the low lying moors, when they flow for considerable distances nearly horizontally, finally to reach daylight once more at outlets such as Rickford and Langford on the north or Cheddar and Wookey Hole on the south. Swallet streams in the various areas tend to converge underground as proved by the exploration of such penetrable swallets as Eastwater and Swildon's Hole, where numerous tributaries are constantly adding to the volume of the main stream. For this reason, not only are the outlets fewer in number but, for the most part, are on a much larger scale. By this means a complete through system is formed as shown diagramatically in Plate 1.

The cave of outlet is of an entierly different character, not dipping steeply as does the swallet, but running nearly horizontally into the heart of the hill. Incidentally, being so much more roomy (Plate 7b), it is usually far more comfortable for exploration, affording at the same time plenty of good climbing since, it is found, that old upper passages previously carved out by the streams but now forsaken for lower levels, always exist and connections between the different levels are invariably found. At Wookey Hole, for instance, there are five such levels and the ends of several are visible in the cliff face as dry cave mouths. They are in reality the old river outlets now deserted, and the present entrance is nothing less than one of these through which the connection with the present water level is made at the first great chamber where one can walk down to the edge of the underground river Axe. (See Plate 7b). But for this type of passage, the wealth of Stalactite scenery in our caves would be practically non-existent.

Nowhere on Mendip has it been possible to penetrate from the swallet to the outlet. It is invariably found, where really low levels can be reached (Eastwater 500 feet, Swildon's Hole 460 feet), that long sections of the system consist of submerged passages, filled to their very roofs with liquid mud. In Yorkshire, another limestone district, the Yorkshire Ramblers Club has been successful in carrying out a penetration such as this.

Referring again to Plate 1, the actual points of inlet and outlet are seen enlarged and it will be clear that at both ends, various processes are at work. The valleys themselves are gradually being worn deeper by the usual stream action and, as a result, the cliff face at the foot of the swallet valley and the head of the outlet valley (formed by the undercutting action of the issueing streams) are gradually increasing in height. Both these cliff faces are also exposed to the action of the elements : the effect of wind, rain and frost on limestone being perhaps best seen in some of the gigantic screes of Ebbor, which reach from top to bottom of the gorge. By these means both cliff faces are gradually being destroyed and, as they slowly recede, imperceptibly approach each other, thereby shortening the underground portion of the system between. For the sake of clearness the diagram shows but one swallet : the same applies to a system branching out to any number of swallets. The illustration of the swallet and cliff (Plate 2a), is taken on the old Bristol road midway between the Miners' Arms and the Hunters' Lodge Inn. It is not one of our greatest swallets and has not been opened up but shows in a remarkable manner the lengthening of the valley. It may clearly be seen, the cliff has receded so far that the wall on the near side of the road has been undermined and a considerable length has fallen into the swallet mouth ; for the most part it has disappeared entirely. The brink of the cliff is now half way across the grassy margin of the road. It may be mentioned that here, progress has been more rapid since the swallet is at a comparatively early stage and (as may be seen in the plate) has not yet reached bed rock proper, the little cliff being formed of surface soil and broken stone which have far less resistance.

The illustration of the outlet and cliff (Plate 2b) is taken at Wookey Hole, quite our most picturesque example. In dry weather the small canal leading to the mill may take all the water coming down. In time of flood, however, the roar of the foaming torrent is deafening. The undercut arch, clearly seen, is a convincing testimony of the gradual destruction of the cliff. After a gale or hard frost we may find large stones below which we knew were not there before: at all times in windy weather, one can hear trickles of earth rattling down through the ivy leaves on the cliff, telling us that irresistable nature is surely taking her course.

Now let us study what is going on in the underground portion of the system and mark the various types of passages. Firstly, any extensive swallet is a small centre of depression and in addition to the main stream there is much surface moisture percolating through to the line of drainage from all directions. It is only at some distance down that this moisture is collected together and all running through passages in bed rock. Near the surface, the limestone beds are eaten out by the encroaching moisture, the result being that they are breaking up into enormous boulders and these, together with those falling from the cliff face, fill, so to speak, a gigantic funnel of bed rock. Unlike the Yorkshire pots, a Mendip swallet is never a large gaping hole inviting one to enter and explore, far from it. Below the swallet cliff lies sometimes a miniature swamp, sometimes a quagmire of mud and rubble. It is a simple matter, though hard work, to excavate this and clear it to a safe distance; one is in daylight and has the free use of one's limbs, but below this one's troubles begin. The great obstacle to all swallet exploration is the carving out of a passable passage through the boulders, firstly the small stuff nearer the surface and then the really big fellows below, perhaps working with a sledge just in out of daylight with one's body in all sorts of impossible positions and not an inch of spare elbow room. This is the really arduous and often heart-breaking part of cave work, such as most effectively cools off the merely luke warm enthusiast.

It was only by much persevering work such as this, on the part of H. E. Balch and others, with the aid of powerful lifting tackle and blasting charge, that the craggy depths of Eastwater and the unrivalled glories of Swildon's Hole were ever laid bare to human eye. At the great Hillgrove swallet the luck has been bad! Since years before the war, many are the efforts which have been made to penetrate the boulders to what we know must be an extensive system below and the excavated pit is now enormous, yet nowhere has any passable fissure yet been exposed or even certain indication given of the best line to follow.

Finally the boulders end or become so large that one can creep about between them in a bewidering maze of darkness. Great masses, weighing many tons, may be suspended above one's head with no visible support and that unpleasant feeling of impending collapse, the streaming moisture (one avoids the direct line of the stream!) the knife edge fossils outstanding on the surface of the water worn rocks cutting one's clothes to ribbons, together with the restricted space all tend to make boulder work by far the most unpleasant part of cave exploration. Plate 3a shows H. E. Balch in the upper and less formidable part of the Eastwater boulders, not far from the surface, and his right hand rests upon the "trap door," a great mass which had to be levered up into its present position before the passable passage, occupied by his body, was discovered.

Bed rock reached, various types of passage may be encountered. Water action alone (firstly by the percolating moisture in the fissures and, as these enlarge, by the stream itself) tends to eat out low, flat "bedding caves" along the lines of the joints and these may often be of considerable width. "Purgatory," well named, in the west series of Wookey Hole (see Plate 4a), is a good example, where only at one point does a slight enlargement just and only just allow the passage of a not too robust human body.

In due course the fissure becomes enlarged to such an extent that, not only the streamlet, but, that which it is bearing along in its course gains an entrance and a second highly important process then comes into operation, far reaching in its effects, far more speedy in its action, namely Erosion. Gravel, debris and the disintigrating boulders are rushed down pell mell by the stream carving out the passages at a comparatively far greater speed. Plate 3b is a view of the Plantation Swallet, Priddy mines and is taken from inside looking up to daylight above. The stream—one of those which drains this old lead mining area—is extraordinarily constant. The rocky nature of the stream bed and some of the larger stones which from time to time are hurled on downwards into the bowels of the earth, are clearly shown.

To mention a public cave, wonderful examples of the *results* of this work may be seen on the passage roofs and in the lofty rifts of Gough's Cave, Cheddar, where some of the rock surface resembles beaten copper.

Our first example is in the horizontal beds of the Dolomitic Conglomerate of Wookey Hole. These actions taking place in tilted strata result, as may be foreseen, in a passage of the "Eastwater Canyon" type, the actual section of which is shown in a striking manner in Plate 4b. To obtain this, the only existing photograph was a tough proposition, for, be it remembered, the operator and his assistant with the magnesium light were in the same sort of position as the rest of the party. Space will not permit of reminiscences of some of our expeditions here and elsewhere, so it might just be mentioned in passing that this is one of the *easier* sections of Eastwater through which much bulky gear for the negotiation of vertical drops, photographic apparatus and rations for a strong party, have to be transported.

Again, the vertical fault is a line of great weakness quickly seized upon by the descending waters, resulting, firstly in a high and narrow passage, later in the great lofty rift chamber which occurs in Eastwater and Cheddar. Plate 4c shows the rift immediately inside the little cave mouth below the reservoir railings in Cheddar Gorge. The figure, seated on the boulder at the far end gives some idea of its enormous height, not perhaps realised by those who peep inside without the necessary illuminants.

What is the result of prolonged underground erosion? Passages are eaten out and enlarged by the processes already described, all the cracks and fissures in the neighbourhood of the stream are water logged. Here and there great masses in the roof, by the weakening of the joints, will gradually lose their support and crash into the torrent thereby forming great boulder chambers, the fallen rocks, breaking up, helping largely to increase the work of erosion. The greater the chamber formed the more rock surface is there exposed to water action, the greater the support necessary for the roof. In short, though not in the experience of any of us, has any extensive fall taken place, through the course of time gradually increasing collapse is slowly but surely going on. Plate 7a is rather a convincing example taken in the Boulder Chamber of Reed's Cavern, Burrington, an active swallet not long ago opened up by the Speleological Society of Bristol University. The figure seated below gives some idea of the size of the enormous fallen mass forming a natural bridge above.

Now although, in these underground systems, we may say that this work, deep down in the heart of the hills, may go on for an infinite amount of time—geologically this is not so—collapse, of which we have so many impressive examples, cannot go on indefinitely. There must come a time when the very roof of the enlarged and weakened system finds insufficient support. In the opinion of H. E. Balch, who knows the Mendip caves better than any, the formation of the Mendip Gorges, Cheddar, Burrington, Ebbor and others, is due to the final collapse of cave systems which have reached this stage though it is only right to mention that Professor Reynolds of Bristol University, an expert on Mendip Geology, regards this as only one of several possible theories. It is, perhaps, only natural that this should be the pet theory of all cave enthusiasts, adding as it would, such considerable interest to their subject, their hope being that in course of time it may be proved beyond a doubt.

If the argument is worked out still further, it would follow that in such a case as Cheddar, the various valleys branching out at the head of the gorge to Long Wood, Velvet Bottom, Kingdown Farm and Priddy, indicate the lines of the principal swallets feeders to the Cheddar water, to-day flowing along the same lines, but at a lower level and out of sight. The heads of these various branches would once have been those gradually lengthening butt-ended valleys already described. In other words, the upper extremities of the Gorge (and the lower in like manner) would have been formed by surface action. The numerous dry cave mouths in the upper reaches (not of course the old out-lets, Gough's and Coxes caves, at the foot) would indicate the old junctions of the smaller tributaries. The fact that in these last mentioned caves the earliest races of cave men found ready made homes, must impress us with the vast ages of time to which we must school our minds when considering the question of cave formation.

The wonderful and prolific stalactite scenery forms, in the opinion of many, quite the most attractive feature of cave exploration. It is the persistent hope of one day to burst in on a fairy grotto of marvellous beauty, never before seen by human eye, that forms the chief lure of cave hunting for many whose keenness might otherwise be speedily destroyed by the arduous labour and discomfort inseperable from serious work.

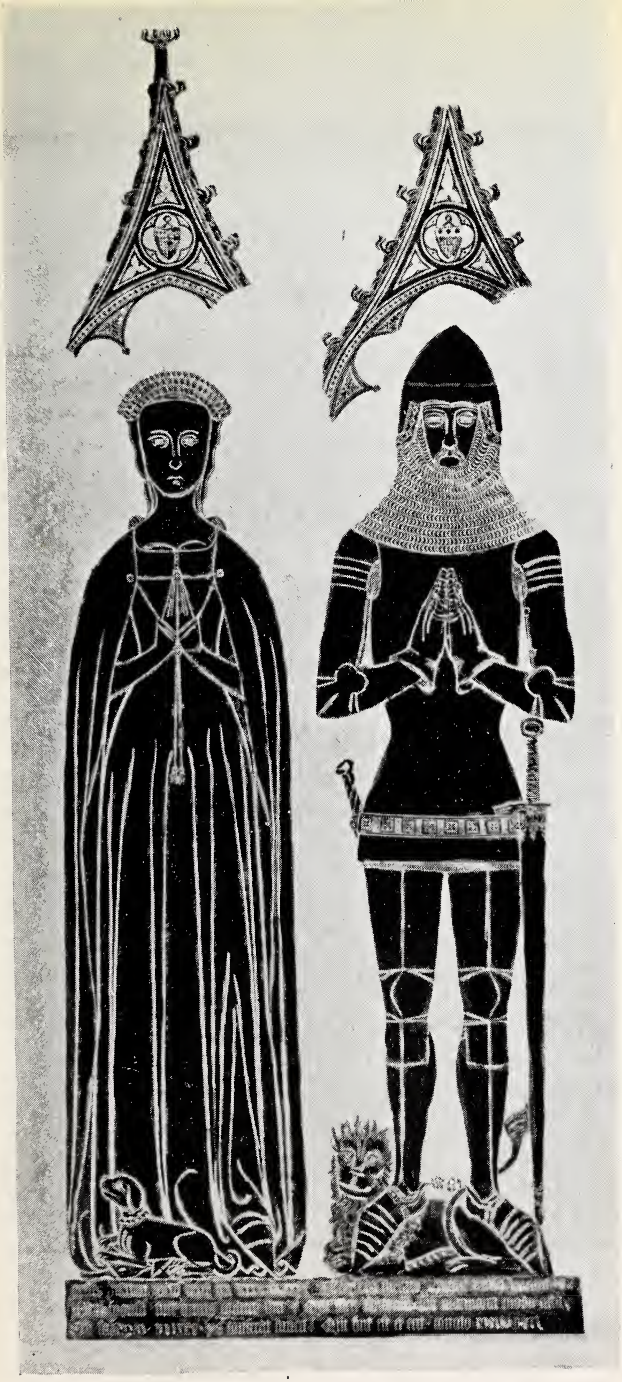
No report on Mendip caves would be complete without some space devoted to this subject and although, in a journal of this kind, it is entirely superfluous to describe how these wonderful formations come into existence, yet I venture to do so (with the help of some rather unique illustrations), since it has a bearing on other points of considerable importance.

The percolating moisture (as distinct from running water) descending through the bedding joints takes carbonate of lime into solution and where this moisture ultimately strikes a passage or chamber, it hangs in the form of drops on the roof. Now, provided that passage contains a rushing torrent and driving spray, those drops will fall and be swept away. The air is already saturated with moisture and no evaporation can take place.

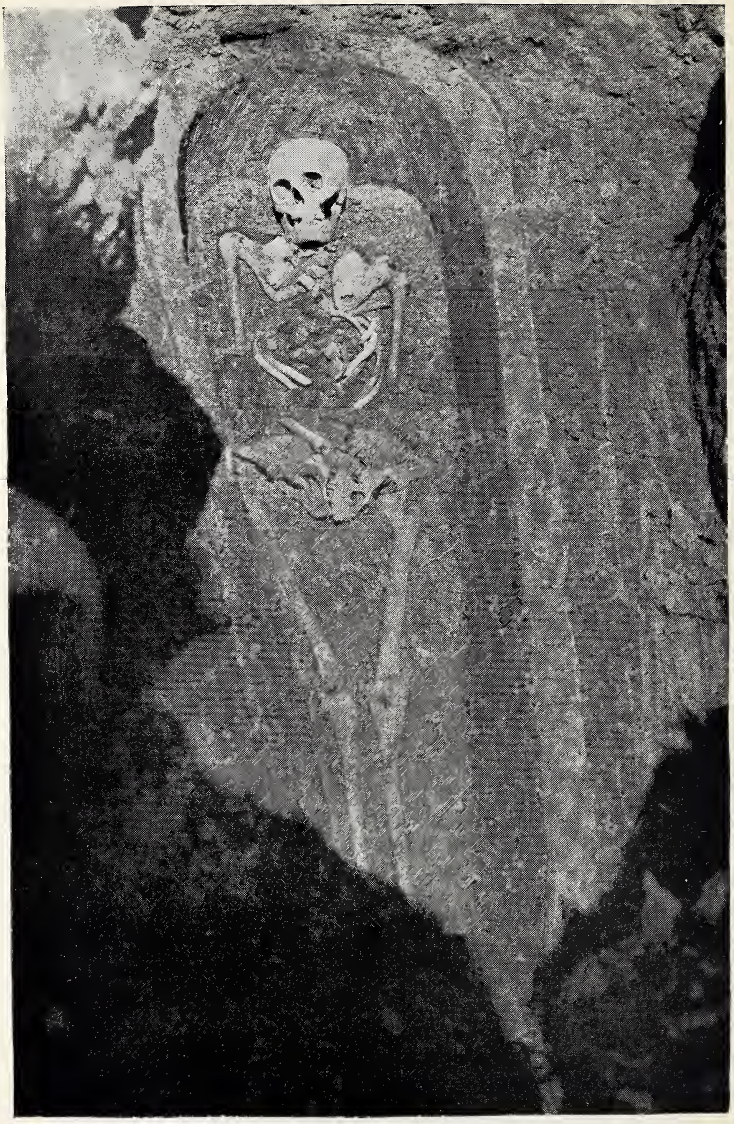
No cave is quite as wet as Eastwater, even its " dry " ways are unpleasantly moist and in that vast system there occurs hardly a vestige of stalactite. But should the passage be an old deserted dry way, evaporation is carried on and each successive drop at every point deposits round itself a minute quantity of its Carbonate. " Pencils " are formed in this manner, see the upper portion of Plate 6, sometimes 4 feet long, the stalactite at its first stage, a frail hollow tube to be broken with a breath, even sometimes to fall with its own weight as we have found in the newly opened grottoes of Swildon's Hole where the breakage must have been natural. By the constant drip the pencil grows in length and girth and ultimately the hollow core is sealed up, the stalactite now growing by the moisture running down its sides. Any section of a stalactite, however great the size, taken near the roof will show this small hollow core.

Provided the drops occur at points where they tend to fall clear, a pendant is formed, but should they enter a passage down through a sloping fissure they will continue to run down the underside of the sloping roof, the effect of evapouration now being the deposition of slight ridges of the carbonate which conduct the flowing moisture. In course of time beautiful " curtains " are formed and, according to how the original drops meandered down the sloping roof, so these fall in folds as graceful and natural as in real drapery : frequently they have a cock's comb edging. Plate 5b taken beyond the public way in Gough's cave, could hardly be bettered as a clearly defined example of the two forms, they hang quite by themselves, side by side, and above is seen the fissure from which the moisture is derived.

The supply of moisture is usually such that much of it falls to the ground where it flows out over the rocky floors and, evaporation continuing, everything in its course is sealed down under a pavement of glistening crystal, where it



Sir Morys Russell and Isabel his Wife, Dyrham Church.



Photo] [*Mr. A. J. Taylor*

ROMAN COFFIN AND SKELETON FOUND NEAR ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

drops over ledges, transforming these into the semblance of frozen waterfalls. The carbonate is also deposited in the cave pools in the form of a lining of sparkling dog tooth crystals, a nodular variety of lining being sometimes found.

Directly below the points of drip the stalagmite is formed which by the same process grows slowly upwards. Plate 6 taken in the most recently discovered grottoes of Swildon's Hole shows some unusually fine stalagmite pillars.

The two points are now imperceptibly approaching each other. In course of ages they join and, as growth continues, become solid pillars joining floor and roof. Plate 5b.

One must accept with caution the statement often made, based on 20 or 30 years observation, that the stalactite grows such and such a fraction of an inch in a given time. No one can tell in any individual case whether, in past ages, the supply of moisture has always continued constant or if it has always contained the same percentage of carbonate. It is no uncommon thing to come across stalactites where at present all action has ceased, they are bone dry with a rough dull surface and far less beautiful than those glistening with moisture.

The beauty of a stalactite grotto, never before desecrated by human hand or foot, when first seen, baffles description, as does also the excitement of a party, it may be after months of hard work, breaking in on such a scene. It may be all of purest, glistening white as in some of the recently discovered grottoes in the lower series of Swildon's Hole or perhaps a mass of wonderful colour running from white (the pure carbonate of lime) to cream, yellow, brown, blood red, even to greys and blacks as the moisture happens to be affected by different minerals in the limestone—iron, manganese, etc. The translucence also varies to a great extent, some formations being almost transparent and showing wonderful veining when a light is held behind them, while others, chiefly those where action has ceased, are quite opaque.

It is, however, the infinite vagary of form which entirely defies explanation. Why, at such places as Wookey Hole, should the stalactites remain insignificant, while they have directed the drip which has formed magnificent columns below? when, in other cases, no pillar springs up from the stalagmite floor to meet a great pendant. Why, in a cluster of hanging pencils should one choose to run out nearly horizontally, another turn round and start growing upwards like a huge button hook or a third, halfway down its length grow to several times the original diameter, imitating a great carrot, or a group of three or four loop and tangle themselves together ? These occurances are common, not to mention the multitude of freakish forms easily earning the fancy names we know so well in some of the public caves. These " erratics " are of great interest but are likely to remain unexplained for a long time to come. They cannot be accounted for by the presence of draughts, due to running water, which often give a wierd, steady tilt to one's candle flame (incidentally the chief instrument by which a plentiful supply of good air is almost invariably forthcoming).

It has already been shown why stalactite cannot form in active waterways. Before closing these few remarks on cave formation, it must therefore be explained why certain underground torrents are canopied with some of our richest and best scenery. There is not the slightest doubt that this is due to the accumulation of " Chokes." Let us take as our example the recently opened lower series of Swildon's Hole. At the " Water Chamber," the bottom of the old upper series, all known dry ways come to an end and with the exception of Barnes' Loop (not a long section) and one or two short branches, the whole of the rest of the cave down to the present termination, 460 feet vertical below the entrance, and 2,000 to 2,500 feet from the entrance, has to be traversed along the main stream and along practically the whole distance wonderful masses of stalactite occur. What has happened is obviously this :—The stream having carved out a considerable passage was at some time in its remote past diverted by a choke and for long ages ran through another course at present undiscovered, during which time these formations were built up. Then, owing to something, we know not what, perhaps a great flood, the choke was cleared and the stream reverted to its original passage.

It is now very actively engaged in destroying the work of all those ages, all the ponderous masses of stalactite within its reach are steadily being planed down by the rushing water or hacked to pieces by rocks being hurled along in time of flood. A great boss at the end of the water rift, where the stream turns left handed, shows clearly the marks of such blows as make one marvel who has tackled a bank of stalagmite with a sledge-hammer.

The limestone base suffers far more than the stalagmite, which is almost as steel to lead in hardness, the former being destroyed at a far greater rate : the results are interesting, great shelves of stalagmite stand out from the walls, 4 and 5 feet up, under which one can creep, while at other points, masses stand out derelict in mid-stream quite detached from the parent rock on which they were formed.

The lodging of a single stone in a fissure of the stream way may therefore have great and far-reaching consequences; it may arrest the course of a second stone; their combined efforts may, in reality, be the small beginnings of an immovable dam, later to be made a compact and solid mass from floor to roof, as the smaller water borne material—sand, gravel, etc., is banked up and fills every crevice. The causes and results of chokes are some of the many interesting points to be studied underground. It is a choke of liquid mud which at present bars further penetration downwards in Swildon's Hole; it was by digging away an ancient choke of coarse river sand high up in the west wall of the first chamber at Wookey Hole, that the beautiful western series was discovered by Balch and Troup (Plate 5b), and it is undoubtedly due to chokes that many of our dry ways, containing some of the best scenery, exist to-day.

Space will not permit of a detailed description of any individual cave, nor of any further comments on the sporting possibilities of this somewhat unusual hobby. The outstanding work of the past few years is the opening of Reed's Cavern, Burrington, by the Bristol University Speleological Society (a cave full of Archæological interest) and the final mastering of the forty-foot waterfall at Swildon's Hole by the Wells Society, by which the penetration of that indescribably beautiful lower series (Plate 6), is now, though perhaps at the cost of a ducking, always ensured.

In closing, I should like to acknowledge the kindness of the committee of the Wells Society in lending the block of Plate 6, which helps to illustrate this report. It is with great difficulty that I have resisted the impulse to include more such views of our beautiful underground scenery rather than those perhaps more sombre subjects which help to explain the progress of cave formation.

NOTES.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, DYRHAM.

Mr. H. Parry.

In the floor of the south aisle, under the pews, is a large brass in memory of Sir Morys Russell and Isabel his wife. The knight wears bascinet and camail, and a jupon with a straight edge over a hauberk of banded mail, with plate armour on the arms and legs. His bawdric is elaborately ornamented. His wife, on his right hand, wears her hair in three nebule rows on her forehead, but behind it is long, resting on her shoulders. She wears a mantle over a kirtle with tight-fitting mitten sleeves which are buttoned closely the whole length of the fore arm. Above the figures are the remains of a fine double canopy, showing two shields suspended in quatrefoils.

I. Argent on a chief gules three bezants. Russell.

II. Russell impaling, Quarterly 1st and 4th, Ermine three annulets one within the other gules, Fitton: 2nd and 3rd. Argent a bend wavy gules, between two bendlets of the last, Kingston.

There is a rhymed latin inscription underneath.

NOTES OF STONE COFFIN UNEARTHED DURING BUILDING OPERATIONS AT ST. JOHN'S ROAD, BATH.

Mr. A. J. Taylor, F.S.Arc.

A stone coffin with cover and containing human skeleton and bones was uncovered at a spot about 180 feet from the S.W. angle of St. John's Church and 32 feet from the road (St. John's Road) on June 27th, 1923, during excavations for building works. The top of cover was at a level of 3ft. 6ins. below the surface of the ground. The outside dimensions of coffin were as follows: length 6ft. 6ins., width at head 2ft., width at foot 1ft. 3ins. Internal measurements, 5ft. 9ins. long, 1ft. 7ins. wide at head, 11ins. wide at foot. It was 11ins. deep and the cover consisted of a single stone slab 6ins. thick, the walls being $2\frac{1}{2}$ins. thick.

The coffin was lying with its axial line 60° E or N at the head. The coffin had to be removed to allow the building operations to continue.

ROMAN SITE AT LIMPLEY STOKE.

Mr. A. T. Wicks.

Since the report in last year's Proceedings some further digging in the same field has been undertaken. This field, it may be repeated, is on the higher or south side of the Midford—Limpley Stoke lane.

The chief discovery this year is of the existence of a considerable area of cobbled stone. A flat stone, a foot high, set nearly vertical at 8ins. from the surface, proved to be a sort of revetment for a cobbled surface, which extended northward for 13ft. where progress was stopped by the bushes against the lane wall. On attempting to follow the line of revetment westward, a similar stone was found adjacent to the first, and another 15ft. from it. As a quicker method of finding the westward extension of this area, a line of seven holes was dug about 9ft. from the lane wall; in each the cobble was again found, in the first five at 6ins. from the surface, in the next at 13ins. and in the last at 18ins., thus following the lie of the ground as indicated by the lane. The total distance traversed was 100ft. and the western edge of the field almost reached.

At this end of the field a short trench was then dug, extending from 40ft. to 55ft. from the lane. In the deeper soil it was hoped to find some undisturbed foundation or unbroken relics. Instead, at depths of 33ins. to 28ins. the cobbled stones were found again. This feature has thus been proved for at least 100ft. parallel to the lane; in the perpendicular direction it is at least 13ft. in the centre of the field, and if continuous at least 50ft. at the western end.

In previous digging in the centre of the field, two flat oolite slabs were found at a depth of 18ins. resting on undisturbed clay. One was a pointed stone 3ft. long, 18ins. wide and 3ins. thick. The other was 10ft. away and half as big. No further trace of a supposed wall in this part of the field was found. The whole is consistent with an interior area paved with oolite slabs, surrounded on at least two sides by cobbled area which in one place is raised by about one foot.

The length of 13ft was cleared of the stones to a width of 2ft. As the top layer was never more than 8ins. below the surface, it is probable that a portion has disappeared, and in this connection mention may again be made of fragments of inch slab of foreign sandstone which are frequent in the field. The bed of stones was found to be a foot in depth, the bottom layer was chiefly of irregular stones up to 9ins. in length, the succeeding layer or layers of smaller stones.

The whole was very closely packed with smaller stones ranging in size down to the size of a walnut. It was a very solid piece of work, and took several hours to clear.

Under these circumstances, relics were few; there were portions of two sandstone rubbers, and a flat pointed piece of oolite broken at an artificial perforation, in bronze there were the bow and plate of a course heavy fibula, a small portion of ribbed banding, and one undecipherable "third brass." Mr. J. F. S. Stone, who gave me assistance in the digging, found a coin in similar state on the surface.

In the field on the north of the lane and immediately opposite the diggings described above, bare patches began to show in the partial drought of the summer, thus confirming the existence of remains there.

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AND
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Members changing their address will please notify the Hon. Secretary.

(* Are also Members of the Parent Society.)

1904 Acland Mrs. B. D.
1911 *Adams E. Cay, Esq., The Cedars, Trowbridge.

1920 Bache Mrs., 16, Grosvenor.
1908 Bayliss Rev. F. C., Francis Hotel, Bennett Street.
1919 Begg Mrs., 7, The Circus.
1921 Berryman Lieut.-Colonel, 16, Somerset Place.
1920 Blackett Dr., Hamsterley, Bloomfield Park.
1903 Blathwayt Miss, Eagle House, Batheaston.
1923 Blathwayt Mrs. C. G., Kelston, Batheaston.
1904 *Blathwayt Rev. W. E., M.A., Dyrham Rectory, Chippenham.
1923 Board Mrs., 13, Sydney Buildings.
1922 Bowen E. Palmer, Esq., 6, Bathwick Hill.
1922 Bowen Mrs., 6, Bathwick Hill.
1903 *Boyd Rev. Prebendary, M.A., B.C.L., 13, Brock Street.
1911 Brabazon Miss, 18, Lansdown Crescent.
1912 Bradshaw Major-General, C.B., Buckenhill House, Lansdown.
1912 Bradshaw Mrs., Buckenhill House, Lansdown.
1916 Brendon Mrs., 7, Belgrave Road.
1904 *Breton Miss Adela C., 15, Camden Crescent (Deceased).
1921 Bridgman Miss, 9, George Street, Bathwick Hill.
1021 Bridgman Miss M., R.M.S., 9, George Street, Bathwick Hill.
1915 Bromley Rev. Prebendary F. A., M.A., Weston Vicarage.
1910 Brookfield Mrs., Stratton-on-the-Fosse.
1913 Browne Miss Dominick, 15, Marlborough Buildings.
1920 Bruce Miss M. C., 7, Portland Place.
1920 Brydges-Barrett Henry, Esq., 28, Pulteney Street.
1920 Brydges-Barrett Mrs., 28, Pulteney Street.
1919 Brymer Walter S., Esq., 13, Marlborough Buildings.
1919 Brymer Mrs., 13, Marlborough Buildings.
1920 *Bulleid G. Lawrence, Esq., Leura, Lansdown Road.
1920 Bullock R. C., Esq., Northfield, Bathford.
1903 *Bush Thos. S., Esq., 20, Camden Crescent.
1903 Bush Mrs. Thos. S., 20, Camden Crescent.
1922 Buston Mrs., 161, Newbridge Hill.
1922 *Byrchmore Rev. J., 12, Beaufort West.
1922 Byrchmore Mrs., 12, Beaufort West.

1920 Calder James, Esq., 10, Lansdown Crescent.
1920 Calder Mrs., 10, Lansdown Crescent.
1921 Campbell Miss, 9, Bathwick Street.
1920 Capes P. E., Esq., 28, Pulteney Street (Deceased).
1923 Carey Miss, 2, Beckford House, Lansdown Crescent.
1916 Carr Mrs., Manor House, Weston.
1916 Carr Miss, Manor House, Weston.

1915 *Carr J., Esq., Wood House, Twerton (Deceased).
1916 Carr Miss, Wood House, Twerton.
1916 Carr Miss J. F., Wood House, Twerton.
1923 Carter Mrs. Stuart, Oriel House, Gloucester Road.
1905 Cave Mrs., 16, Circus.
1912 Chope Mrs., 10, Mount Beacon.
1903 Clayton Mrs., Charlcombe Manor.
1911 Colomb Mrs., 17, Darlington Place.
1904 Cooke Miss M. A. H., Lonsdale, Combe Down.
1920 Corbett Mrs. R. C., 3, Cavendish Place.
1923 Cragie Mrs., 11, Queen's Parade.
1920 Crouch H. M., Esq., Summerfield, Weston Park.
1920 Crouch Mrs., Summerfield, Weston Park.
1904 Curd Charles, Esq., 6, Gay Street.

1917 Daunt Miss Mary, The Shack, Lansdown Road (Deceased).
1903 Davis Rev. J. Roland, M.A., Broughton Gifford Rectory.
1920 Dettmar Miss, Amoril House, Batheaston.
1919 Dickson Mrs., 46, Combe Park.
1920 Duncan G. W., Esq., Cavendish Lodge.

1921 East Miss, 15, Lansdown Place, East.
1921 Evans Rev. L. H., 6, Sion Hill Place (Deceased).

1923 Ford Miss Sibyl, 5, Cavendish Place.
1912 Fosbery Dr., 1, Oxford Row.
1911 Foxcroft Captain Charles T., Hinton Charterhouse.

1916 Gabriel Miss, Fleetlands, Weston Park.
1920 Gandy Miss Violet, 9, Kensington.
1908 *Gervis Henry, Esq., M.D., F.S.A., 15, Royal Crescent.
1908 Gervis Miss Dora L., 15, Royal Crescent.
1906 Goldie Robert F., Esq., South Lawn, College Road.
1920 Gouldsmith E., Esq., Wairoa, Combe Down.
1921 Green Mrs., 12, Lansdown Crescent.
1920 Green Miss, 12, Lansdown Crescent.
1922 Green Miss L. R., 9, Dunsford Place.
1922 Green-Armytage, R. N., Esq., 22, Bathwick Hill.
1910 Gregory Mrs., Mount Beacon House.
1903 Gregory George, Esq., 5, Argyle Street
1903 *Grey Gerald J., Esq., 3, Oakley, Claverton Down.
1904 Grey Mrs., 3, Oakley, Claverton Down.
1920 Grey Miss Evelyn, 3, Oakley, Claverton Down.
1915 Grierson Miss, 40, Grosvenor Place.
1921 Grindrod G. H., Esq., Chevin, Lansdown.
1920 Grindrod Mrs., Chevin, Lansdown.

1923 Hamilton Mrs., 42, Park Street.
1923 Hamilton Miss, 42, Park Street.
1918 Hardy Mrs., York Villa, Kensington.
1922 Harford Miss, 9, St. James's Square.
1922 Harford Miss C. L., 9, St. James's Square.
1915 Head H. E., Esq., 14, Dunsford Place.
1904 Heathcote J. Cuthbert, Esq., Southlands, Trowbridge.
1921 Heathcote Mrs., Effingham House, Oldfield Park.

1915 *Hignett Geoffrey, Esq., Hodshill, Southstoke.
1915 *Hignett Mrs., Hodshill, Southstoke.
1922 Holt Miss F. V., 4, Henrietta Street.
1913 Holmes Thomas J., Esq., Eastern House, Beechen Cliff.
1903 *Horne Rev. Ethelbert, Downside Abbey.
1915 Horne Miss E. M., Hunter's Hall, Bitton.
1921 Howden Mrs., 10, Bathwick Hill.

1918 Inchbald Rev. W. E., Charlcombe Rectory.
1920 Inchbald Mrs., Charlcombe Rectory.
1916 Ingham H. M., Esq., 4, Raby Place.

1921 Jay Miss G. de Lancey, 17, Brock Street.
1923 Jones Fitzroy, Esq., Mendip Lodge, Bathwick Hill.
1923 Jones Mrs. Fitzroy, Mendip Lodge, Bathwick Hill.

1903 *Kemeys-Tynte St. David M., Esq., Harefield, The Parks, Minehead.
1920 Ketchley Rev. H. E., Biddestone Rectory, Chippenham.
1922 Kidd Mrs. May, 39, Bathwick Street.
1919 King C. A., Esq., Brookfield, Weston Road.
1919 King Mrs. C. A., Brookfield, Weston Road.
1921 King Mrs. Preston, 19, The Circus.
1903 Knight Miss J. F., 17, Catharine Place.

1915 Layton Mrs., 17, Oldfield Road.
1908 Leigh Colonel P. P., C.I.E., Grosvenor House.
1916 Leigh Mrs., Grosvenor House.
1921 Lethbridge Miss, Donnybrook, Russell Street.
1923 Lewis C. M., Esq., 15, Camden Crescent.
1923 Lewis Mrs., 15, Camden Crescent.
1923 Lewis Mrs. Egbert, 23, Bathwick Hill.
1913 Linley-Howlden H., Esq., Old Manor House, Freshford.
1916 Linley-Howlden Mrs., Old Manor House, Freshford.
1922 Lloyd, Miss Margaret J., 4, St. James's Square.
1910 Longworth-Dames Miss C., 2, Winifred's Dale.

1920 Macnab Miss, 13, Lansdown Place, East.
1917 Mainwaring Colonel, Cleveland House.
1919 Meredith Miss, Beaufort House, Marshfield, Chippenham.
1920 Miller Miss.
1913 Milsom A. C., Esq., De Montalt, Combe Down.
1913 Milsom Mrs., De Montalt, Combe Down.
1916 Milsom F. H., Esq., Audley Lodge.
1916 Milsom Mrs. F. H., Audley Lodge.
1922 Moir Miss Macrae, Diamond Cottage, Bathampton.
1917 Molesworth Brigadier-General, C.B., Elstree House, Lambridge.
1920 Moncrieff Mrs. Cunningham, 63, Combe Park.
1920 Molony Alfred, Esq., Edgar Hotel, Laura Place.
1923 Myers Rev. Thomas, 89, Bloomfield Avenue.
1923 Myers Mrs., 89, Bloomfield Avenue.

1910 Nash Mrs., 7, Laura Place.
1912 Newham Miss, 11, Raby Place, Bathwick.
1903 *Norman George, Esq., F.S.A.I., 12, Brock Street.
1907 Norman Mrs., 12, Brock Street.

1923 Norris Mrs., 1, Beaufort East.
1919 Nowell Mrs., 1, Catharine Place.
1921 Nowlan Colonel, The Lodge, Batheaston.
1921 Nowlan Mrs., The Lodge, Batheaston.

1923 Orton Miss E. J., 137, Newbridge Hill.
1917 O'Sullivan Dr., Glencairn, Bathwick.
1918 O'Sullivan Miss, Glencairn, Bathwick.

1923 Parr Mrs., Eagle House, Bathford.
1912 Parry Hubert, Esq., 28, Newbridge Hill.
1920 Parry Mrs. H., 28, Newbridge Hill.
1913 Perkes Rev. R. M., 39, Combe Park.
1913 Phillimore J. E., Esq., Sedgley, Sion Road.
1922 Phillimore, Mrs., Sedgley, Sion Road.
1921 Phillips Miss, Woodside, Bathford.
1921 Phillips Miss M. L., Woodside, Bathford.
1904 Pitcairn Rev. D. Lee, M.A., 1, Laura Place.
1904 Pitcairn Mrs., 1, Laura Place.
1923 Pitt Mrs., South Stoke House, South Stoke.
1923 Pitt Miss, South Stoke House, South Stoke.
1911 Powell Mrs. W. H., 15, Lansdown Crescent.
1915 Powell Mrs., 12, Rivers Street.
1920 Pritchard Miss E., Combe Royal, Bathwick.
1907 Pryce Ernest, Esq., 10, Cavendish Crescent.
1906 Pryce Mrs., 10, Cavendish Crescent.

1923 Robinson Sidney, Esq., Lansdown Croft.
1923 Robinson Miss Violet, Lansdown Croft.
1909 Rodman Miss, 17, The Tyning.
1903 Rolleston S. V., Esq., B.C.L., M.A., Bath and County Club.
1914 Rose Mrs. H. Fullwood, 74, Pulteney Street
1920 Rowe Colonel Octavius, 4, Royal Crescent.
1920 Rowe Mrs., 4, Royal Crescent.

1904 Salmon Miss E. E., 26, Hawthorn Grove, Combe Down.
1904 Salmon Miss L. M., 26, Hawthorn Grove, Combe Down.
1922 Sanders Miss, 22, Forester Road.
1920 Sartoris Miss, 31, St. James's Square.
1903 *Scott M. H., Esq., 5, Lansdown Place, West (Deceased).
1921 Scott Miss, 5, Lansdown Place, West.
1919 *Scratton Arthur Esq., Woodleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1920 Scratton Mrs., Woodleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1915 Segar Edward, Esq., Bella Vista, Lansdown.
1922 Seth-Smith Miss, Caisson House, Combe Hay.
1920 Severs Miss A., 17, Marlborough Buildings.
1920 Severs Miss E., 17, Marlborough Buildings.
1918 *Shickle Rev. C. W., F.S.A., 9, Cavendish Crescent.
1907 Shum F. E., Esq., 41, Sydney Buildings.
1920 Sonnenschein E. A., Esq., 4, Sion Hill Place.
1920 Sonnenschein Mrs., 4, Sion Hill Place.
1903 Spender Miss, 8, Forester Road.
1920 Start Miss, 21, Rivers Street.
1921 Stothert Lady, 1, Lansdown Place, West.
1903 Strachie Lord, Sutton Court, Pensford, Bristol.
1911 Straghan Mrs., 26, Crescent Gardens.
1912 Strangways Miss R. C., 6, Brunswick Place.

1920 Street A. E., Esq., 12, Somerset Place.
1920 Street Mrs., 12, Somerset Place.

1918 Taite Miss, 14, Bladud Buildings
1915 Tanner J. H., Esq., 12, Beaufort East.
1904 Taylor A. J., Esq., 18, New Bond Street.
1921 Thackwell Brig.-General, Perrymead Cottage.
1903 *Thatcher A. A., Esq., Midsomer Norton.
1921 Thompson Miss Edith, Beaconfield, Lansdown.
1921 Thompson Miss E. Perronet, Beaconfield, Lansdown.
1920 Thring Mrs. C. B., Ormonde House, Sion Hill.
1920 Thring Miss Marjory, Ormonde House, Sion Hill.
1903 *Tite Charles, Esq., Stoneleigh, Taunton.
1923 Townsend Mrs., Fairhaven, Batheaston.
1921 Tucker Mrs. Allon, 9, Green Park.
1904 Tyte W., Esq., 7, Bloomfield Crescent.

1921 Varley Rev. F., Filleigh, Bathwick Hill.
1921 Varley Mrs., Filleigh, Bathwick Hill.
1921 Varley Miss, Filleigh, Bathwick Hill.
1920 Vibert Lionel, Esq., Marline, Lansdown.
1920 Vibert Mrs., Marline, Lansdown.

1914 Wace Henry, Esq., St. Winifreds.
1914 Wace Miss, St. Winifreds.
1903 *Waldegrave Right Hon. the Earl, Chewton Priory.
1913 Walker Robert, Esq., F.R.G.S., Armidale, Knighton Road, Leicester.
1910 *Wardle F. D., Esq., 5, Vane Street.
1920 Watson Miss A. E., Swainswick Cottage.
1920 Wayne Miss, 12, Bladud Buildings.
1920 Webb Mrs. Gillum, 11, Lansdown Place, East.
1903 *Whittuck E. A., Esq., 77, Audley Street, W. 1.
1922 *Wicks A. T., Esq., Monkton Combe School.
1922 Willis Colonel C. H., C.B., 94, Sydney Place.
1917 Wilkinson Lady, Deepdene, Bathampton.
1904 Williams D. Prout, Esq., 3, Charles Street.
1913 Wills J. H., Esq., Potticks House, Frankleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1913 Wills Mrs., Potticks House, Frankleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
1913 Wills Stanley, Esq., 14, Royal Crescent.
1913 Wills Mrs., 14, Royal Crescent.
1908 Wood Miss Ellen, 38, Combe Park.
1921 Wright E. M., Esq., Lower Swainswick House.

1911 Young B. W., Esq., 1, Stanley Villas, Camden Road.

The Treasurer in account with the Bath and District Branch Somerset Archæological Society for 1923.

1923. Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	145	8	5
,, 236 Members' Subscriptions	59	0	0
,, Sale of Proceedings	2	0	6
,, Excursions	0	17	6
,, Dividends on 4½% War Loan	2	5	0
	£209	11	5

1923. Cr.				£	s.	d.
By William Lewis & Son, Ltd., Printing and Illustrating Proceedings, 1922 ..				42	18	0
,, Fyson & Co., Ltd., Receipt Book, Circulars, etc.				2	7	0
,, Two Lectures, Hire of Rooms, Lantern and Fees				5	12	0
,, Postages, Proceedings, Circulars, etc. ..				2	17	3
,, Donation, National Trust				1	1	0
,, Subscription, Somerset Archæological Society				1	1	0
,, Hire of Rooms, Literary Institution ..				0	12	6
,, Envelopes and Photo Block..				0	10	3
				56	19	0
,, Balance 4½ per cent. War Loan	£50	0	0			
,, ,, War Certificates ..	38	15	0			
,, ,, Westminster Bank ..	63	17	5			
				152	12	5
				£209	11	5

Audited and found correct—EDWARD SEGAR,
26th December, 1923.

THOS. S. BUSH, *Hon. Treasurer.*

The cost of the Proceedings for 1923 not included in the above.